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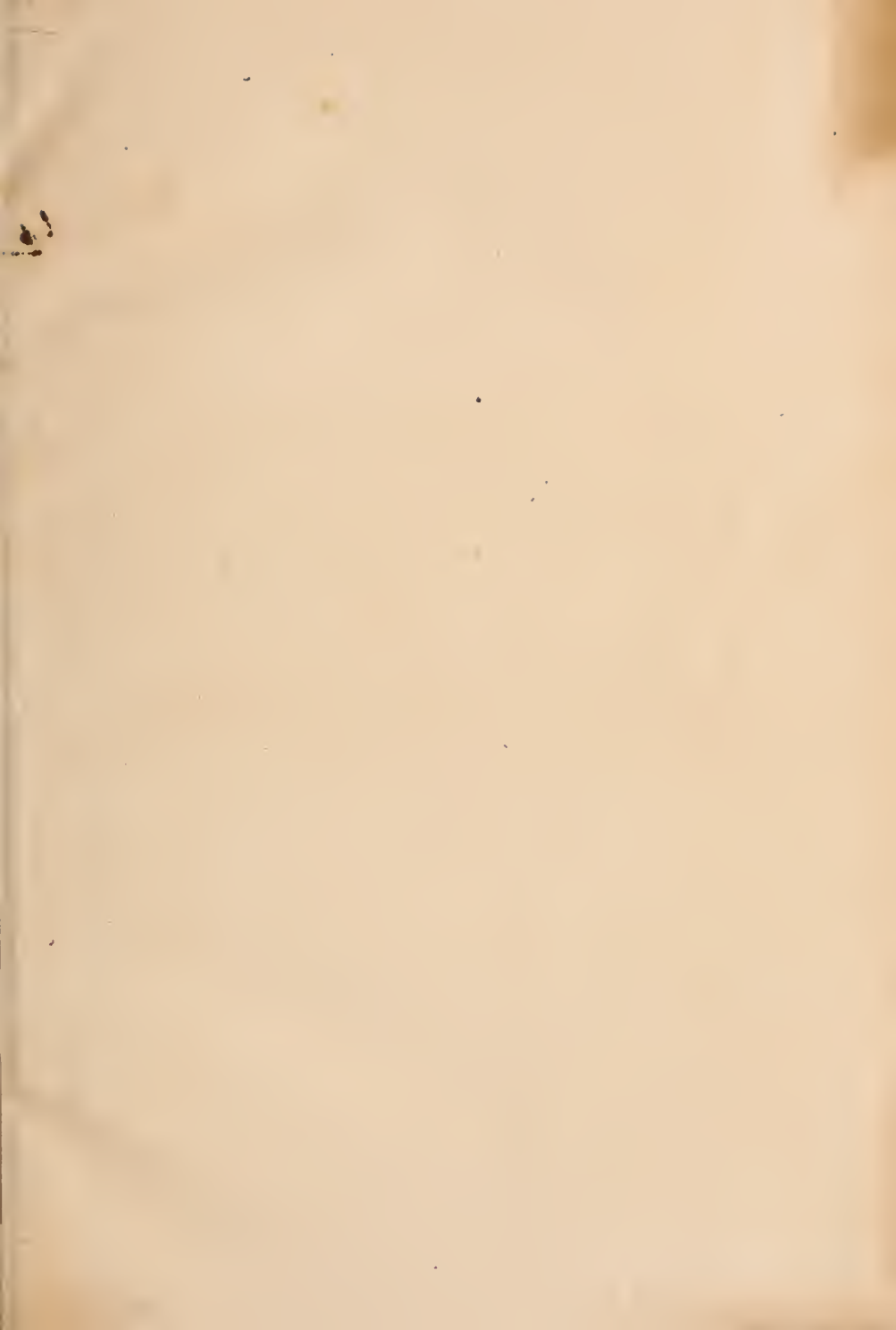
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VOL. XV—OCTOBER, 1847.—No. 10.

ART. I. *Papers relating to the riot at Canton in July 1846, and the proceedings taken against Mr. Compton, a British subject, for his participation in that Riot. Republished from the China Mail. (Continued from page 448.)*

61. *Mr. Johnston to Mr. Addington.*—Recd. September 23.)
Victoria, Hongkong, July 25, 1846.
Sir,—Despatches from Mr. Consul Macgregor to the address of his Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and chief Superintendent of Trade were yesterday afternoon received after my despatch to your address was closed, and I have now the honour to forward copies of them with their respective inclosures for the information of the Earl of Aberdeen,—I have, &c.
A. R. JOHNSTON.

62. *Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.*
Canton, July 16, 1846.
Sir,—I have the honour to forward to your Excellency copy of a letter addressed to me by the British community in consequence of a resolution adopted at a meeting held by them, of which I also inclose copy of the Minutes. In these documents they express their conviction of the necessity for the permanence of a British vessel of war in the river opposite the factories.
A copy of my reply to this letter is also inclosed, and as therein stated I now beg to lay the whole before your Excellency for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, with such recommendation or remarks as you may deem advisable to add thereto.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR,

63. *Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.*
Canton, July 23, 1846,
Sir,—I beg to forward to your Excellency for transmission to the Earl of Aberdeen, a memorial, with inclosures, signed by the merchants and other British subjects in this place, praying that one of Her Majesty's ships be permanently stationed at Canton, on the ground of the indifference or inability of the Chinese Government to grant them speedy and effectual protection in case of sudden attacks by the rabble.

This memorial was inclosed in a letter to me from the Chairman of a Committee of the merchants and others, in which he requests to transmit it to his

Lordship by the Mail to leave Hongkong on the 25th instant. My instructions, however, requiring me to communicate with Her Majesty's Government through your Excellency, I do not feel myself at liberty to depart from them in the present instance.—I have, &c,

F. C. MACGREGOR.

64. *Mr. Campbell to Captain Talbot of the "Vestal."*

Canton, July 14, 1846,

Sir,—As Chairman of a Committee at a Public Meeting of British Subjects held in Canton on the 13th instant, in consequence of recent disturbances, I am directed by the Committee to hand you copy of a resolution passed at that Meeting, and to express the opinion of the Committee, that the present situation of affairs is such as to render it highly expedient that immediate effect should be given to the wishes of the community.—I have, &c.

A. CAMPBELL.

'That it is the opinion of this Meeting that it is absolutely necessary for the protection of life and property that one of Her Majesty's ships of war be permanently stationed off the factories, and that the letter now read, praying Her Majesty's Consul to recommend the stationing such a vessel, be adopted.

65. *Captain Talbot to Mr. Campbell.*
Vestal, Blenheim Reach, July 14 1846.

Sir,—I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, inclosing the copy of a resolution passed at a Meeting lately held by British Subjects in Canton, in consequence of the recent disturbances.

I have to request you will assure the gentlemen of my entire concurrence in the opinion therein expressed, and that I shall cordially advocate its adoption.—I am &c.

CHARLES TALBOT,

Captain and Senior Officer in China.

66. *Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.*

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit to your excellency the copy of a letter I addressed to commander Clifford, of her majesty's ship *Wolverene*, on the receipt of his letter to me announcing his arrival at Whampoa.

Besides my reasons as therein stated for not desiring a vessel of war to anchor near the factories, I may add that such a circumstance would afford the local authorities reasonable ground of argument for withholding the assistance they are bound by treaty to afford in case of need, and which indeed they have never denied, though it must be confessed it has been given with their characteristic tardiness.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR.

67. *Consul Macgregor to Commander Clifford of the "Wolverene."*

Canton, July 21, 1846.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, announcing the arrival of her majesty's ship under your command at the anchorage at Whampoa, and that your instructions from Captain Talbot were, on acquainting me with your arrival, and that you were further instructed to anchor in Macao reach in the immediate neighbourhood of the factories, to be guided in that as well as in the nature of the protection to be afforded by her majesty's ship under your command, by my requisitions and representations.

I have accordingly the honor to state, that having in mind the instructions of her majesty's government as the basis of my conduct on the present occasion, and judging from the tranquillity that prevails, and the total absence of any popular manifestation of disorder, by which an outbreak of the rabble might be anticipated, it is my opinion that the intentions of the government at home would best be served and the safety of this community best consulted, by the *Wolverene's* remaining for the present at Whampoa. Her appearance at this crisis in front of or near the factories, might have the effect it is desira-

ble to avoid, of exciting apprehensions of violence on our part; whereas the effort of the authorities, aided by those of the foreign community itself, would I presume fully suffice to repel any sudden attack of the unarmed mob, until assistance could be forwarded by yourself, of which I would not fail to give you timely advice.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR.

68.

Extract of a Letter from Consul Macgregor to the Chairman of the Committee of British Merchants.

(The Document will be found at length in the China Mail No. 80.)

With regard to the necessity as urged by you for anchoring the *Wolverene* in front of the factories or in the Macao Passage, I must premise that Article X of the Supplementary Treaty sufficiently indicates the anchorage of the port and the purpose which the presence of a vessel of war was stipulated for; while the latter part of the same Article clearly expresses the necessity of caution against exciting misgivings among the people. Although it is probably as well known to the Chinese authorities as to ourselves, that the *Wolverene* has been sent to Whampoa in consequence of the recent disturbance, it is nevertheless obvious to my mind that her sudden appearance off the factories at this moment would excite the misgivings of the populace, and that the very effect would be produced thereby that it is so necessary to avoid, while it is much to be feared that any amount of force which could be landed would be wholly inadequate to offer an effectual resistance to the infuriated mob of a city like Canton.

Without more urgent reasons therefore than already given, I cannot, in opposition to my own judgment and the most positive instructions from Her Majesty's Government, take upon myself to direct the nearer approach of the *Wolverene*.

69.

Sir John Davis to Consul Macgregor.

Victoria, Hongkong, August 7. 1846.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, inclosing a correspondence with the English merchants, I have to express my satisfaction that quiet is still maintained at Canton.

As I before observed, I see no reason to question the good policy of your decision as to dispensing with a man-of-war at Canton under the actual circumstances, and while the Chinese Government maintained tranquillity. The wish of the British merchants to have one permanently anchored there is out of the question, as in this manner two vessels of war would be constantly required in the Canton River.

But the possible necessity of a steamer or other vessel being, under inevitable circumstances, anchored opposite to Canton for the safety of our merchants and commerce is a very different question. In my despatch to you of 27th June, 1844, I pointed out objections to an armed force of marines on shore at Canton, and received the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government with reference to those instructions. The very end and aim of an armed vessel afloat is to prevent the necessity of such a course, and to provide a defence and refuge for our people out of immediate contact with the rabble. To overlook this clear and evident distinction would be in fact to confound together the evil and the remedy.

That we should reserve to ourselves the unquestionable right of doing that at Canton which we do every day at the other Four Ports is sufficiently evident, considering that, while the interests at stake are greater at Canton, the security enjoyed is in the inverse proportion. The turn given by the Local government to the late unfortunate occurrences is such, that I repeat my apprehensions as to the discussions and the danger not yet being terminated, though I shall be most happy to find that they are.

To allow our indisputable right to be questioned as to sending one of her majesty's vessels to Canton in case of necessity would be a dereliction of my duty. I know of no present use for her majesty's naval force in China except

as protection to British trade, and to cut ourselves off from that protection, where it might seem most needed, would be a surrender, to say the least of it, of a most supererogatory description. Whatever the restrictions on merchant-vessels, there is not a syllable in the English Treaty to restrict Her Majesty's ships from going where they please; and if this negative sanction were not enough, article 30 of the French Treaty is a positive one of the most unequivocal kind.

However notorious it may be in fact to the Chinese authorities that the English were not the only parties engaged in repelling the rabble from the factories, the Local government must not be allowed to persist in its endeavours to throw the whole odium and responsibility on our people. The other foreigners would indeed be constituted very differently from ourselves had they any objection to be recognized as parties in the exercise of the universal right of self-preservation. The thing to be opposed is the insidious and dishonest attempt on the part of the Chinese, with whom more than thirty years' experience has made me only too well acquainted.

I repeat, that as long as, acting on your own responsibility, you who are on the spot consider that British lives and property are safe at Canton without the protection of the *Nemesis* (which I expect daily from the north), shall most gladly abstain from sending her up; and I sincerely hope that your anticipations of continued tranquility and safety may be confirmed, though Keying himself, in his note of the 10th instant, tells you that he apprehends the reverse.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

P. S.—I have not received any account of the result of your investigations into the conduct of Mr Compton.

70

Mr Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, October 3, 1846.

Sir,—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship's attention has been called to the inconvenience which has resulted on a late occasion from there being no ship of war stationed off Canton for the protection of the lives and property of Her Majesty's Subjects resident at that port.

I am to state to you that Lord Palmerston perfectly agrees in the importance of carrying out fully Article X of the Supplementary Treaty with China, which has already been urged upon the consideration of the Board of Admiralty, in my letters of September 23d, October 1st, and November 16th, 1844.

By that Article it is provided that "at each of the Five Ports to be opened to British merchants, one English cruizer will be stationed to enforce good order and discipline amongst the crews of merchant shipping, and to support the necessary authority of the Consul over British Subjects."

I am to request that in bringing this subject before the consideration of the Board of Admiralty, you will state to the Board that Lord Palmerston is strongly of opinion that British Subjects residing at Canton should not in future be left without the protection which the presence of a British ship of war, thus stationed in the port of Canton, is calculated to afford.—I have, &c.

H. U. ADDINGTON.

71.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1846.

Sir.—In my despatch of the 3d instant I stated to you that Her Majesty's government had ordered a ship of war to be stationed off the factories at Canton for the protection of British subjects and their property. Had one of Her Majesty's vessels been so stationed during the late disturbances it seems very probable that those disturbances might never have taken place, or might have been put an end to at an earlier period.

It was stated in Lord Aberdeen's despatch to you of the 16th of November, 1845, that the first and most immediate occupation for the naval force in China was, that Her Majesty's subjects residing in that country might have the be-

neft which the presence of a British ship of war at each of the Five Ports was calculated to afford. Her Majesty's government are of opinion that the rule thus laid down should as far as possible be observed; and I have to desire that you will furnish me, by an early opportunity, with information as to the practice which has hitherto prevailed in this respect.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

72.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.

Foreign Office, December 10, 1846.

Sir,—have received your various despatches respecting the disturbances at Canton, the last of the 28th of September.

I have to state to you with reference to Mr. Consul Macgregor's correspondence inclosed in your despatch of the 7th August, that I do not think his reasons for objecting to the stationing of a ship of war opposite the factories for the protection of British residents by any means satisfactory. I dissent entirely from his doctrine that British subjects resident in a Chinese port should be left wholly unprotected, lest the sight of the force sent for their protection should irritate the mob, and excite them to violence which they would not otherwise have committed. I am satisfied that the effect would be just the reverse; and that on the contrary the true way to encourage the mob to acts of violence is to leave unprotected the persons and the property that might be the objects of their violence.

The distinction attempted to be set up by Mr. Macgregor between that part of the river opposite the factories, and the port of Canton is wholly untenable; but in order to cut such a distinction short, I have only to say, that wherever British subjects are placed in danger, in a situation which is accessible to a British ship of war, thither a British ship of war ought to be, and will be ordered not only to go, but to remain as its presence may be required for the protection of British interests.

I see no reason in anything which Mr. Macgregor has said for cancelling the instructions given to you in my despatch of October 3, for the constant presence, till further orders at least, of a ship of war within reach of the factories at Canton.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

73.

Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.

Canton, October 25, 1846.

Sir,—I have the honour of submitting to your Excellency inclosed copies of my correspondence with the British merchants on the subjects of their having organized themselves into an armed body, for the purpose of self-defence against possible riots.

I have only time to add for your Excellency's information, that the person who has hitherto instructed foreigners in the management of fire-arms having departed, I do not entertain the least apprehension of any display being made likely to irritate the public mind.

On the other hand alterations are making in the halls of the Consoo House (in the immediate vicinity of the factories,) which I understand are to be converted into barracks for a strong military force to be permanently stationed there for the more effectual protection of the foreign residents, which seems to preclude the necessity on their part of resorting in future to any measures of self-defence in the event of popular disturbances.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR.

74.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.

Foreign Office, January 12, 1847.

Sir,—I have received your despatches of the 12th and 28th of October, and with reference to those parts of them which relate to the measures which the British residents at Canton are taking for their defence against attacks by the Chinese mob, I have to state to you that I do not think it advisable to discourage the British residents from forming themselves into an armed associa-

tion for their common and mutual defence against such attacks. On the contrary it seems to me that such a measure is wise and expedient, as it appears certain that in the present state of things at Canton, the only effectual restraint upon the violence of the mob must be found in their conviction that the foreigners are able and prepared to make aggressors pay dearly in their persons for any attempted attack.

I consider that Mr Consul Macgregor proceeds on an entirely erroneous principle in thinking that organization for defence is dangerous by tending to irritate the mob. The foreigners should of course abstain from any act of aggression or provocation towards the Chinese, but they are much more likely to be attacked if they are unable to defend themselves, than if they are prepared to resist aggression. There is no greater incentive to outrage on the part of the turbulent and lawless, than a belief that the persons whom they would like to insult or to plunder, may be assailed with success, and plundered with impunity.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

75. *Sir John Davis to Visc. Palmerston.* (Recd. Jan. 23, 1847)

Victoria Hongkong, November 21, 1846.

MY LORD,—After the *Nemesis* Steamer had, been anchored for three months off the factories at Canton, and measures had been taken by the Chinese Government for insuring order, I entirely concurred with Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane in deeming it right that the steamer should be withdrawn, as her remaining, under present circumstances, would only foster the insolent and aggressive spirit of the ill-disposed among our merchant residents. The foreigners of other nations have never demanded such protection from their Governments, and their better conduct renders them less desirous to seek it.

I have received since the departure of the *Nemesis* the inclosed despatch from Consul Macgregor, with a communication from Keying.—I have, &c. §

J. F. DAVIS.

§ See Nos. 48 and 49.

76. *Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.*

Foreign Office, January 25, 1847.

Sir,—With reference to your despatch of the 21st of November, stating that you had entirely concurred with Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane in the propriety under existing circumstances of withdrawing the steam-vessel *Nemesis* from her anchorage off the factories at Canton, I have to acquaint you that although it may perhaps be useful that the ship of war should sometimes be withdrawn for a short time from the anchorage off the factories, I consider that it should after an interval always go back again. The presence of such a vessel must be a restraint on the Chinese, and by insuring the British with a feeling of protection, render them less disposed to take their defence into their own hands.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

77. *Sir J. Davis to Visc. Palmerston.* (Recd. Feb. 27, 1847.)

Victoria, Hongkong, December 5, 1846.

MY LORD,—With reference to the characteristic disposition of our people to misconduct themselves towards the subjects of the Chinese government (concerning which I inclosed a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane in my despatch of November 25), I have now the honour to add the very respectable testimony of Mr. Alcock, the most able of our Consuls in China, as to the riots at Foo-chow-foo, and the present abandonment of that port having been caused by the English.

Your Lordship is already aware that the merchants at Canton have been clamorous for a war steamer being constantly anchored opposite the factories. While there appeared some actual risk of an outbreak, and the Government had made no provision for defence, I caused the *Nemesis* to be moored in that position; but when the merchants expressed an expectation that such a ves-

sel should be constantly lying there, even after the local authorities had organized an efficient guard, I was obliged to decline, and applied by the inclosed letter to the Rear-Admiral for his professional opinion on this question.

My instructions from the Foreign Office all lead to the conclusion that the Europeans at Canton must live under the protection of the Local government, and that on failure of this they ought to retire, and leave redress to the proper quarter. rather than wage a kind of private war on their own account. The Rear-Admiral's reply coincides entirely with my preconceived opinion on this subject, and I deem it only justice to myself to inclose a copy of Sir Thomas Cochrane's letter for your Lordship's perusal.

Under all the above circumstances nothing can be more obvious than the necessity for such a summary control over the conduct of our people as shall diminish to the lowest possible amount the chances of collision and disaster.

I have considered it a prudent measure to make known the inclosed extract of instructions with reference to the Canton riot of 1843.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

78.

Consul Alcock to Sir John Davis.—(Extract.)

November 17, 1846.

I will merely state now that in referring to the previous serious riot involving loss of property, personal safety, and risk to our relations with the Chinese authorities, I directed attention to those causes which I felt strongly persuaded had principally led to the dangerous outbreak. The whole of the information obtained, as the result of long and patient inquiry from every source within reach worthy of credit, up to the time of my leaving Foo-chow, taken together with various circumstances which came to my knowledge subsequent to the riot, in a more incidental and often more conclusive manner, left the strongest conviction in my mind, that the conduct of the British residents habitually or frequently in the suburbs, together with that of their establishments, and the crews of the opium vessels, had been for a long period antecedent to April, such as was eminently calculated to lead to ill feeling and violent popular outbreak in the neighbourhood. From the persons thus designated as residents at Nantae, I distinctly except Mr. Walker and Mr. Meredith, whose conduct was in my opinion not only circumspect and considerate, but above suspicion. The conviction I entertained and made public in the Notification No. 10 was borne out by as ample evidence and as conclusive a body of information as can well be attainable by foreigners in China. I may go further, and state that my conclusions rested rather upon the concurrent testimony, with very rare exceptions, of numerous British subjects of undoubted credit, who had ample means of personal observation during many months prior to the occurrence of the riot; and who referred to acts done in their sight, and to others spoken or boasted of by the parties concerned. I do not wish to attach any personal responsibility at this date, or I could refer to a distinct admission from one of the parties implicated by the proceedings of the rioters. But the various broken heads which were given (although they came to my knowledge by British subjects complaining) seem distinctly enough to attest the readiness with which violence was employed. The report so prevalent at Amoy and Hong-kong, previous to the riot, that there was a dangerously frequent recurrence on the part of persons frequenting the suburbs to "club law," and a proposition by parties in the hearing of a Consular officer to go out on a "knobbing excursion," a slang in use for hunting and killing the dogs, may I think suffice to set the injudicious question raised Mr. Roper entirely at rest.

The mercantile and shipping residents in the suburbs, and their establishments, were distinctly charged by the authorities with repeated, long-continued, and irritating acts of provocation, insult, and injury towards Chinese subjects. These charges were not even mentioned to me until after the indemnity was paid, and when all angry discussion had ceased. They were not pressed in a depreciatory or vindictive spirit, but on the contrary were referred to only as grounds for precaution to prevent a recurrence of events so deplorable and prejudicial to all parties, so total was the absence of all hostile animus or apparent motive for false charges.

79.

Sir John Davis to Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane.

Victoria, Hongkong, November 30, 1846.

SIR,—As I have long been assailed by representations from the English merchants at Canton as to the necessity of a war steamer lying constantly opposite the factories, I shall feel much obliged by your Excellency favouring me with your professional opinion as to the policy of such a measure.

It appears to me that the other foreign authorities have not seen the necessity for such a course of procedure, which in some respects seems particularly objectionable, as being calculated by the sense of security to foster the insolence and aggression of our people towards the Chinese, already unfortunately too great, at the same time that, in the event of actual hostilities, a single weak vessel could afford no real protection.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

80

Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane to Sir John Davis

"Agineourt," at Hongkong, December 3, 1846.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the representations made by merchants for the presence of a war steam-ship constantly opposite to the factories at Canton.

2. I must in the first place observe to your Excellency, that the stationing of a vessel of war at all off the factories, for the purposes they propose, is neither according to the letter nor spirit of the Supplementary Treaty, the 10th Article of which states that a cruiser will be stationed at each of the Five Ports to enforce good order and discipline amongst seamen, and to support the authority of the respective Consuls over British subjects; but it in no part contemplates a ship of war being stationed at any port, still less opposite to the factories at Canton, for the purpose of intimidating or overawing either the people or government of the country; a proceeding which in my opinion would be as offensive as fruitless; as, were the one or the other so hostilely inclined as to render a protective force necessary, one steam-ship in such a situation as that contemplated would not only be entirely useless, but would be exposed to inevitable destruction; for no force that could be placed on board of her, nor courage however great, could in that narrow strait avert such a calamity from fire-boats or fire-rafts, or from being overwhelmed by the mere pressure of numbers.

3. If the British merchants desire to have a steam-ship opposite the factory, to be at all times ready for their reception on board, in case of attacks or assault, but without any specific reason to suppose attack or assault intended, I cannot but entertain the opinion that Her Majesty's government not only would not listen to such an unreasonable expectation, but only that the knowledge on the part of the Chinese of the object for which the steam-ship was placed there might not improbably realize the aggression it apprehended, on one hand by persuading them that we doubted and feared them, and on the other by encouraging those British subjects prone to domineering and aggression, by the knowledge that at the worst they had a shelter to retreat to.

4. My firm opinion is (as stated in my demi-official letter to your Excellency, written after my visit to Canton, and of which your Excellency is most welcome to make any use you may think proper with Her Majesty's government) that the Chinese are perfectly inclined to be peaceable, and that should any disturbances take place, they will not be the aggressors. The Americans, French, Dutch, and all other nations, seem to live in peace and harmony with them; and I am not aware of any reason why we should not do the same.

5. If, however, contrary to all expectation, the Chinese should evince such hostility as to render the lives and property of British subjects insecure, your Excellency will concur with me in opinion that it will be more dignified in that case for all British subjects to remove in time from Canton, and leave redress and indemnification in the hands of the British government, than to contest the point with a small steam-ship.

6. That the presence of such a vessel only tends to irritate, and not allay, inimical feeling, your Excellency or your predecessor has more than once, I believe, been informed by the Chinese authorities at Canton.—I have, &c.

THOS. COCHRANE.

81.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir J. Davis.

Foreign Office, March 11, 1847.

Sir,—With reference to the observations contained in Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane's letter of the 3d of December, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 5th of that month, I have to state to you that Sir Thomas Cochrane's argument against stationing a vessel opposite the factories at Canton would be perfectly conclusive if the purpose for which she was to be so stationed was to defend the factories against an attack from the government of Canton, employing against the steamer all the means of annoyance in its power. But the ease to provide for which the steamer is to be stationed off the factories, is the case of a riotous attack upon them by a lawless mob, in repelling which the Canton government and the force at its command would be co-operating allies; and it is difficult to imagine that a British ship of war, however small, would not be a powerful auxiliary in such an emergency.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

82.

Sir J. Davis to Viscount Palmerston. (Recd. March 23.)

Victoria, Hongkong, January 13, 1847.

My Lord,—The inclosed copy of a despatch lately received by me from Mr. Consul Macgregor is corroborative of the opinion stated by Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane and myself, of the wanton provocation given by the English residents at Canton to the native Chinese.

The parties on this occasion, Messrs. — and — appear to have been drunk, and on that ground the Consul limited the fine to only 10 dollars each. They may therefore consider that they escaped very lightly, and I understand that they acknowledge it, and express their sorrow for the occurrence.

Had the persons whom they so maltreated not been in European employ, and therefore, fortunately for themselves, submissive under the maltreatment, the case, like Mr. Compton's, might have been followed by more serious results.

The Consuls have been instructed by a circular to act on all these occasions under Ordinance No. 7 of 1844, enacted in pursuance of Her Majesty's Order in Council of 17th April, 1844. The Ordinance No. 2 was passed previously to the receipt of the Order in Council, and is entirely superseded by the later one enacted in consequence of it, and in which there is no appeal on every occasion of fine from the Consul to the Hongkong Judge.

Ordinance No. 2 being therefore now superfluous, and in many things inconsistent with No. 7, may properly be repealed, and indeed should have been on the enactment of No. 7.

The annexed extract of a letter from Mr. Consul Macgregor just received, merely confirms the opinion already offered by Sir Thomas Cochrane and myself as to the overbearing disposition and intemperate conduct of the English at Canton, and the danger of encouraging their aggressive propensities by the unnecessary presence of a war steamer. The contrast with the Americans and other foreigners, who, living under precisely the same circumstances, make no outcries for military support, is obvious.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

83.

Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.

Canton, January 8, 1847.

Sir,—With reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 31st December last, in relation to one of the gate-keepers at the foreign factories having been stabbed, I have not failed to examine into the matter, of which the following are the particulars:—

In the preliminary examination which the gate-keeper Chingagan underwent at the Consulate, he stated that on the morning of the 26th December, at about 4 o'clock, several persons were knocking violently at the gate; that on his being about to open, a foreigner who was standing inside prevented him, threatening him, with his walking-stick. When the foreigner was gone, he opened the gate to the persons outside; but they being very boisterous, he, after opening the wicket, immediately withdrew into the gate-house, fastening the door after

him; it was however forced open by the parties, one of whom who entered first he recognised to be Mr. ——. They then took hold of and dragged him and his comrades out of the lodge by their tails, shook them, kicked and tumbled them about, and Mr. — lastly drew a sword out of his stick, and stabbed him in the left foot.

Chingagan on being summoned to make a deposition on oath of the above facts, confirmed his former statement, with this exception however, that instead of affirming that Mr. — drew a sword out of the stick and stabbed him in the left foot with it, he deposed "that he did not know who struck him on the foot, because one person had hold of his tail while another was beating him; that he did not see any person pull a sword out of a stick, and that he does not know how or with what he was wounded, being shaken about and in fear, and that he did not know of the wound in his foot till after the affair was over, when he got a light, and saw the blood on his shoe." I have satisfied myself by ocular inspection that the wound, in whatever manner it may have been inflicted, is but a very slight one, and that by this time it is nearly healed.

Mr. — admitted the assault, but denied having any stick in his hand at the time, which was confirmed by Mr. — of the —, who was in company with him, and had participated in the affray with the gate-keepers.

Messrs. — and — deposed that on passing the eastern gate leading to the block factories their attention was attracted by a noise of scuffling and laughter inside the gate, and on going in they observed Mr. — and Mr. — in the act of pulling three Chinese out of the porter's lodge by their tails; they saw Messrs. — and — give them a shaking, but saw no blows struck, nor any stick or weapon of any kind in possession of either Mr. — or Mr. —.

The Chinese Chingagan not being able to state by whom or with what instrument he was wounded, the depositions of his comrades (one of whom ran away immediately at the commencement of the affray, and the other hid himself in the gate-house) not affording any elucidation of this subject, and the witnesses to the transaction declaring that no sticks were in possession of either Mr. — or Mr. —, I dismissed the case of the stabbing, and only dealt with assault committed by Messrs. — and — upon the gate-keepers; for which, viewing it more in the light of a drunken frolic than otherwise, I sentenced each of the parties accused to pay a fine of ten dollars to Her Majesty the Queen, which I trust your Excellency will approve of.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR.

84. *Extract of private letter from Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.*

Canton, January 11, 1847.

I never was an advocate for stationing any ship of war in the immediate vicinity of the factories, because there is great temptation, as well danger to the preservation of peace, in having an armed force so very near at hand. It appears to me one of those measures which must only be resorted to when dictated by absolute necessity, a case which, so far as I can judge, does not exist. Upon these grounds I declined recommending such a measure when urged by the merchants during your absence in the north immediately after Mr. Compton's disturbances. Apart from these considerations, I conceive that it would produce more evil than good, since on the one hand it would render our people still more presumptuous and overbearing than they already are, while on the other, in the event of a consequent riot, a small vessel of the class alluded to, with only about thirty men disposable in case of emergency, would afford but very inadequate means of protection. But as to popular disturbances, I must candidly confess I apprehend none for some time to come, provided they are not provoked by the foreigners themselves. The rabble know to their own cost that the foreigners are in possession of fire-arms, and determined to use them when attacked, and that their numerical force is much stronger at present than it has been at any former period. The local authorities on the other hand, dreading the effusion of blood, for which they become responsible to the people, are much more on the alert than they ever were before, and have adopted more efficacious measures for the instant suppression of any outbreak before the flame has time to spread. And I would ask, have the Americans who run the same risks as we ourselves, been known ever to complain to

their government of insufficiency of protection, and do they clamour for ships of war at the factories? Certainly not; but knowing that their safety in a great measure depends upon their own conduct, their policy is to behave towards the Chinese with kindness and moderation, but at the same time not to suffer an insult without seeking redress by lawful means. They treat their own officers and the local authorities with respect, while they avoid giving them unnecessary trouble. It seems that by thus quietly following their avocations, the Americans have gained great popularity at Canton; and I feel confident that if our people could only be brought to the conviction that defying their own authorities is of no avail, they would sooner or later find it their own interest to adopt a similar prudent line of conduct.

You will already have observed from my public letters what measures have been taken by Keying for the more efficient protection of foreign residents, and it appears to me that if we shew at this juncture a want of confidence by interfering with that protection which the Chinese authorities are bound to afford our people, there is great reason to apprehend that the former will relax in their endeavours, and that a state of things will result very undesirable, and quite the reverse from what it ought to be according to the established principles of international law.

85.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir J. Davis.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1847.

Sir,—I have received your despatch of the 13th January, inclosing copy and extract of two letters from Mr. Consul Macgregor, one relating to the misconduct of two British subjects at Canton, which, under other circumstances, might have led to a renewal of the riots which were attended with such disastrous consequences in July last, the other relating to the question of stationing a ship-of-war off the factories at Canton.

I cannot but observe that, as regards the latter point, Mr. Macgregor's arguments contradict each other, because if a knowledge on the part of the Canton mob that a small number of foreigners in the factories have muskets, and are determined to use them, tends to keep the mob quiet, it is evident that the presence of a ship-of-war with more formidable weapons and superior organization, must much contribute to the same result.

I must also observe, that while Mr. Macgregor ascribes all sources of danger to the habit on the part of the British residents to insult and molest the Chinese, he seems to me to have very inadequately punished that tendency in the case of Mr.—and Mr.—which forms the subject of his letter of the 8th of January. These gentlemen appear to have been guilty of a very inexcusable outrage upon some Chinese in the service of the factory; and I cannot admit the doctrine of Mr. Macgregor, that the offence of getting drunk is a palliation of any other offence which the drunken person may happen to commit.

It may be desirable that you should impress upon Mr. Macgregor that Her Majesty's government expect to find in the Consul at Canton energy and determination enough to maintain his authority over British subjects, and thus to keep them in order; while, on the other hand, he should have firmness enough to keep the Chinese authorities to their duty, and to hold in check the Chinese mob. It cannot be doubted that by a proper display of firmness and activity when required, the British Consul should be able to make a sufficient stand against either party.—I have, &c.

PALMERSTON.

86.

Sir J. Davis to Viscount Palmerston.—(Recd. March 23.)

Victoria, Hongkong, January 26, 1847.

My Lord,—I have the honour to reply to your Lordship's despatch of October, 24, in which I am directed to furnish information as to the practice which has hitherto prevailed in respect of the presence of a man-of-war at each of the five Ports.

On my arrival nearly three years ago at Hongkong, I found that Sir Henry Pottinger interpreted the terms of the Supplementary Treaty in the same manner with myself, and that in the four ports then open an English sloop or steamer

was "stationed to enforce good order and discipline amongst the crews of merchant shipping, and to support the necessary authority of the Consul over British subjects." The idea had not occurred in framing the Treaty, that the Chinese government would be so powerless over its own subjects, as to render foreign assistance necessary, and if it had occurred, would have been repudiated by Keying.

The port of Canton is at Whampoa, about eight or nine miles distant from the town. Every British merchantman (sometimes to the number of forty at once) is anchored there, and even the small passage steamer which plies regularly from hence is obliged to anchor two miles below the town on account of the shallowness and dangers of the river higher up. The iron steamers which I have sent up when necessary to the town, have not drawn much above six feet water, and though during the attacks on Canton in 1841, our small men-of-war got opposite the town, it was under those exigencies which war imposes, and with the utmost exertion, difficulty, and risk.

Lord Aberdeen's despatch of November 16, 1844, was written in reply to despatches of that year from myself, urging strongly the necessity of reinforcing the squadron in China, to such an extent as might enable me to observe the provision of the Treaty; and the benefits to British subjects to which your lordship refers as contemplated in that despatch were those provided by the Treaty. "The first and most immediate occupation for the naval force in China is to give full effect to that provision of the 10th Article of the Supplementary Treaty, which stipulates for the presence of a British man-of-war at each of the five Ports opened to British trade."

My several despatches of August and September last will have proved to your Lordship that I had every disposition to send a vessel of war to Canton when it seemed necessary, and that I did send the *Nemesis* on her first arrival from the north, causing her to lie off the factories for three months. My despatch of August 7th contained a long letter to Consul Macgregor (Inclosure 8) in which I combated the arguments and representations of that officer against sending her, and she was sent contrary to his advice. It has always appeared to myself, that if an old careful man like the Consul had no fears, the danger to other British subjects could not be very imminent.

My own natural disposition, I must confess, is perhaps to be too forward and ready to adopt active measures, and were I to indulge in this, contrary to my sense of duty, I should find of course a ready echo in the naval and military officers by whom I am constantly surrounded. There would not be the slightest difficulty in destroying Canton with the force actually here—the great difficulty is in repressing the onward progress of that European ascendancy, which acts with the pressure of a constant spring, and which, if it had full play, would make our progress in China resemble that in India. I may add that the subjects of every other civilized government get on more quietly with the Chinese, and clamour less for protection than our own.

I endeavour on all occasions to adhere as closely to my instructions as circumstances will permit, and the inclosed extract from Lord Aberdeen prescribed a course which did not allow me to countenance the species of private war and of military preparation for which our merchants and their young clerks at Canton shewed so strong a propensity.

I have already had the honour to inclose to your Lordship the strong opinion of the Naval Commander-in-chief against a vessel of war being anchored at Canton, partly as being opposed to the Treaty. My whole correspondence however will have shewn the constancy with which I have maintained against Keying the right of the Queen's ships to go wherever they can float, as founded negatively on our own Treaty, and positively on the 30th Article of that with France.

The practice concerning which your Lordship requires information has been to anchor a vessel of war among the shipping at the ports of trade whenever the naval force in China admitted of it. The demands of New Zealand and Borneo I presume have been the occasion of this force being almost always under the requisite amount, and my representations on the subject are on record. At Shanghai, Ningpo, and Amoy, the shipping lie off the respective towns, but at Canton and Foo-chow-foo they are from necessity eight to ten miles distant.

I have often observed that this is an objectionable feature at those two ports. A vessel among the shipping and a vessel off the town, impose the necessity of two men-of-war.

It is satisfactory to me to receive your Lordship's positive instructions to anchor a vessel of war off the Canton factories, not constantly, I presume, but when necessary. I have hitherto done so in opposition to the opinion of the Consul, and in some measure to that of the Admiral. The *Childers* sloop of war is now anchored among the shipping at Whampoa as usual, and at the crowded period of the new year I shall send the *Pluto* to lie off the factories, to which the *Childers* could not reach without difficulty and danger.

In the meanwhile it is satisfactory to prove to your Lordship, by the inclosed despatch from Mr. Consul Macgregor, that the fears of the Chinese government have led it to adopt effectual measures for the preservation of order, and that the protection of our people will rest mainly where it ought to do, with the government of the country in which they reside.

It only remains for us to protect the Chinese from the provoking insolence of the English residents, and I have given such instructions to the Consuls as will prevent their summary decisions from being set aside by the Chief Justice.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

87. *The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir John Davis.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1844.

The course to be pursued by Her Majesty's Consular Officers in cases like those which have arisen at Canton, is formally to demand from the Chinese authorities that protection for themselves and for British subjects and property in general, to which by Treaty they can lay claim; and failing to obtain this, rather to withdraw themselves and their countrymen (if the latter should voluntarily desire to withdraw) from the danger by which they may be menaced, than to seek to avert the danger by the very objectionable, and at the same time inefficient remedy of landing a body of marines.

88. *Consul Macgregor to Sir John Davis.*

Canton, January 20, 1847.

Sir,—As the New Year of the Chinese is approaching, a period generally marked by a great influx of strangers of every description from the surrounding country, I have thought it right to make diligent inquiries as to the measures adopted under these circumstances by the local authorities for the protection of the British residents, in the event of any outbreak of popular disturbances.

From the information I have obtained through the major commanding the troops stationed in our immediate neighbourhood, I have gathered that about 500 soldiers are permanently quartered in the western suburbs, upwards of 100 of whom form the party at the Consol House and at the other posts distributed around the foreign factories.

In addition to these an armed militia, said to amount to several thousand men, has been erected among the inhabitants of the western suburbs for their own protection, and a certain number of which are patrolling the streets every night.

For some time back I understand the Governor-General has of late been regularly despatching one of his aides-de-camp or some other officer of rank to inspect the military posts outside the city, in order to see that they are on the alert; and these officers are generally thus employed during the greater part of the night.

This unusual vigilance has in a great measure been brought on by the consideration of threatening letters having been repeatedly sent to the pawnbrokers in this part of the suburbs, combined with an apprehension for the safety of the foreign factories in case a surpris at this time of the year should be attempted on the part of one of the numerous bands of robbers that are infesting certain parts of the interior of this province, and to the existence of which I drew your Excellency's attention in my report No. 104 of last year.—I have, &c.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR.

89.

Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1847.

Sir,—I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's government approve generally of what you say in your despatch of the 26th January, respecting the stationing of a British ship-of-war in each of the five Ports, and particularly off the factories at Canton.

I have to state to you however that I do not see why the occasional presence of a ship-of-war at Canton should prevent the British Consul from repressing by the legal means within his power, any tendency to violence or provocation on the part of the British residents; and Mr. Consul Macgregor's despatch of the 20th January of this year, inclosed in your despatch of the 26th January last, rather tends to shew that additional protection may sometimes be required for the security of the British community against a sudden outbreak on the part of the Chinese mob.

It is very well to say that it is the duty of the governing authorities in foreign countries to afford protection to British residents, and that the responsibility of doing so ought to be thrown upon those authorities. But the soundness of this doctrine would be no satisfaction to British subjects and their friends for injuries to person and property which might be sustained by the neglect of local authorities in moments of emergency, properly to fulfil their duty in this respect; and it is the frequent practice of the British government to send ships-of-war to foreign ports where British subjects are established in commercial pursuits, whenever local disturbances appear likely to involve such British subjects or their property in danger. And as to the supposition that while a furious mob was attacking the factories and attempting to destroy them, the British residents ought to seek a remedy by embarking, it is plain that such a course, even if it were physically practicable, would not be unattended with danger to their persons, and would probably involve the certain destruction of their property, and would thus lead to the renewal of most serious discussions between the governments of Great Britain and China.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

90.

Sir John Davis to Commissioner Keying.

Victoria, Hongkong, January 30, 1847.

I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that by the steamer lately arrived from England, I received instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State to communicate to your Excellency as under.

Her Majesty's Government heard with regret that the people of Canton by their lawless violence had compelled the British residents to use fire-arms in defence of their own properties and lives, causing several Chinese to be killed and wounded. The people should be taught to know that the British residents cannot be thus attacked with impunity. If the Chinese Government is unable to controul its subjects, the British must defend themselves, and the greater the violence of the mob, the greater will be the loss of life inflicted on them. The Chinese Government may in future, by means of a vigilant police, and by stopping the beginnings of disorder, render it unnecessary for the British residents to use fire-arms in their own defence.

The British Government has ordered a ship of war to be off the factories for the protection of British subjects and their property. If the Chinese authorities can prevent future disorders, it will not be necessary for a British force, naval or military, to proceed to acts of hostility against the city of Canton, in order to prevent or to punish a violation of treaties.

The above is the tenor of the orders I have respectfully received.—I beg, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

91. *Extract of a Letter from Sir Henry Pottinger to the Canton Merchants.*

I have now arrived at the consideration of your present position and future prospects and wishes, as set forth in your letter, and with respect to the advantages, if not necessity, of actual residence at Canton, as well as the proba-

ble consequences that would attend on your being forced to withdraw from that place, I need only remark that I am fully apprized of those facts, and that I should and shall very truly regret the loss and inconvenience to which you would be exposed by the latter step becoming indispensable. I trust however that it will yet be averted, through the measures which I have already taken and those which I have in view; but advertising to the closing request of your communication, I must at once, finally, most explicitly and candidly acquaint you, that no conceivable circumstances should induce me to place Her Majesty's Government in so false and undignified a posture, as I should consider it to be placed in, were I to send troops and ships of war to Canton in opposition to the requests and wishes of the Local Government, in order that you might carry on your trade under the protection of such troops and ships of war. Such an arrangement, irrespectively of the conclusive objection to it which I adduce above, would inevitably lead to further ill-will, heart-burning, and violence, and its only result must be disappointment, and in all likelihood a renewal of hostilities between the Governments of England and China, a calamity which I feel certain you will one and all cordially unite with me in earnestly deprecating.

In conclusion, I have in this letter entered at more length into an exposition of my sentiments than may have seemed to you to be called for by the one which you addressed to me; but even before the Canton riots took place I had imbibed many of the impression which I now communicate to you; and as a copy of this letter will be transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, in explanation of the course which I have decided upon following, I am desirous that the grounds of that decision should be clearly known to all of you. I had hoped before this time to have had it in my power to intimate to you the purport of the reply as to late events, which I am expecting from the Viceroy at Canton; but owing to circumstances beyond my control, I am disappointed. You shall be made acquainted with it shortly, and in the meantime as it seems to be quite certain that the presence of the small steamer at Canton is merely a source of irritation, whilst in truth if there be any danger, she can in no shape ward it off, I have given my ready assent to Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane's suggestion that she should be recalled.

92.

Commissioner Keying to Sir John Davis.

Keying, High Imperial Commissioner, &c., sends the following reply to a communication of you, the honourable Envoy, dated 12th month, 14 day (10th January), respecting the violence of the Canton populace, which caused the British merchants to wound and kill several Chinese.

Having carefully perused your letter, I observe that Compton gave rise to the riot at the factories that took place in the 5th intercalary month of the present year (July 1847), in which six Chinese were wounded and three killed, and of which you, the honourable Envoy, communicated the particulars to your Government.

The laws of your honourable country respecting homicide do not differ much from the Chinese. It is therefore to me quite inexplicable that you in your note speak again about the outrageous conduct of the Canton populace and the self-defence of British merchants. You also say that if the Chinese Government is unable to control its own people, the English must defend themselves and the greater the fury of the mob, the greater will be the loss of life.

If the Chinese are the real authors of the disturbance, it is our duty to restrain them. The recent outbreak however was occasioned by an Englishman, and the fault is not to be ascribed to the inability of the Chinese authorities in not controlling their people.

I, the Great Minister, in conjunction with the Lieutenant-Governor, have now given direction to establish military stations all along the foreign factories, and appointed civilians as well as military officers to patrol there and coerce the Chinese. It can therefore not be said that we are not strict. I hope, moreover, that you, the honourable Envoy, will restrain the English, and not

again allow them to create a riot. Thus perhaps foreigners and natives may for ever live in peace together.

As for the inhabitants of Canton, they are myriads in number, and all classes are fond of brawls and make light of their lives. The expression therefore that "the loss of life will be the greater," is not calculated to strike terror in them, but rather to rouse their resentment.

Regarding the ordering of a man-of-war to anchor opposite to the factories for the protection of the English merchants, I beg to remark that by acting in everything with reason and justice, the minds of men will be rendered submissive, and tranquillity will reign without the presence of a man-of-war; yet if these principles are violated, the people's mind will not yield, and the anchorage of a man-of-war will be without advantage.

As you the honourable Envoy are endowed with an understanding of the highest order, I believe you take the same view of this matter.

Whilst sending this answer I wish you a daily-increasing happiness, and address the same

To his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, Sir J. F. Davis, Bart., &c.

Taoukwang, 26th year, 12th month, 23d day. (Feb. 8, 1847.) Received 11th.

93. *Sir J. Davis to Viscount Palmerston*—(Reed. Apl. 23)

Victoria, Hongkong, February 15, 1847.

My Lord,—I deemed it right on the approach of the Chinese new year, when Canton is crowded with idle persons, to address the inclosed official despatch on the 2d instant to Captain Talbot—not that I have any expectation of the occurrence of acts of violence and disorder, if our own people will only behave with common abstinence.

The following extract of a letter from Major-General D'Aguilar, now at Canton, will tend to corroborate all that Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, myself, and the Consul have had occasion to repeat upon this subject, and we have none of us any motives for seeking popularity by appealing to passion rather than reason:

"I have been a good deal on the river, and constantly in the streets about the factories, and extended some of my walks close to the city gates, but have never met with anything but courtesy and civility. I believe a great deal—I may say everything—depends upon ourselves, and that a kind manner, and a bearing free from offence, is the best security against all approach to violence and insult."—I have &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

94. *Sir John Davis to Captain Talbot.*

Victoria, Hongkong, February 2, 1847.

Sir,—Although the Consul has long reported everything quiet and peaceable, yet during the crowded and idle period of the new year at Canton it appears to me very desirable and at the same time in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's government, that the *Pluto* steamer should lie near the factories with such a crew and armament as may seem to you calculated to insure her own safety in case of an outbreak, and that of Her Majesty's subjects. It would likewise be prudent to let the *Vulture* or some other additional ship of war proceed to Whampoa during the same period.—I have, &c,

J. F. DAVIS.

95. *Viscount Palmerston to Sir John Davis.*

Foreign Office, April 14, 1847.

Sir—Since the date of my despatch of the 25th of March I have received from the Board of Admiralty a copy of a despatch from Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane dated the 21st of January, on the question of stationing a ship of war off the factories at Canton. I inclose for your information a copy of this despatch, and also a copy of the letter from this office therein referred to

You will perceive by the inclosed copy of a letter which I have directed to be addressed to the Board of Admiralty, that under existing circumstances the naval officer commanding Her Majesty's ships in the China Seas will be authorized to use his discretion as to withdrawing the British steam-vessel from opposite the factory garden.—I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

96. *Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane to the Secretary to the Admiralty* ;

“Agin-court,” at Penang, January 21, 1847.

Sir—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th October last, relative to the absence of a ship of war from Canton, on the occurrence of a tumult in that city on a late occasion, and inclosing a communication from the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the same subject, under date the 3d October.

As the Under Secretary of State does not allude to any communication from China, on which his remarks are founded, it is impossible for me to do more than surmise the particular point to which his representation is directed; but I have no hesitation in saying that if any person has attempted to convey the impression to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, that the service at Canton connected with the fulfilment of Article X of the Supplementary Treaty has not been fully carried out on the part of the navy, that person has been guilty of a great calumny on the conduct and character of that vigilant officer, Captain Talbot, whom I had left in command in China on my departure for India, and who was at Hongkong when the disturbance took place to which the letter before me refers.

It would indeed be a great reflection on myself or those officers I have in command, if after the long correspondence that has taken place between the Admiralty and Foreign Office relative to the Treaty in question, we did not use our best endeavours with the means at our command, both in letter and spirit to give effect to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government; and I hope to be able to shew that at any rate in the question now at issue we have completely done so.

I will now beg my Lords to be pleased to afford their attention to the last of my Lord Aberdeen upon the subject, dated the 1st of October, 1844, and transmitted in Sir J. Barrow's letter to me of the 30th of November, 1844, wherein his Lordship clearly and distinctly points out what he considers the term “stationed at a port of trade” to mean; and how far he deems it admissible that the ship of war so placed may be occasionally absent therefrom.

Applying this rule to Canton, it has been more than rigidly observed, for while at the other ports of trade, when the ship of war is absent, either on the ground of health or discipline, there is no other naval authority to fall back upon, Canton has invariably had in its vicinity at Hongkong, a frigate, two steam-ships, and a sloop of war, a requisition for whose services could, by a boat, reach Hongkong in a few hours; and either a sloop of war, or steam-ship, or a frigate, has been actually at anchor at Whampoa for a longer period than my Lord Aberdeen's despatch contemplated, and invariably when Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary deemed her presence desirable.

It is now necessary I should request their Lordships' particular attention to the wording of Article X of the Supplementary Treaty, and the real objects therein contemplated by the presence of a ship of war, namely, to enforce good order and discipline among the crews of merchant shipping, and support the authority of the British Consul; and to observe that the whole merchant trade of Canton, without one single exception, is assembled at Whampoa, the port of trade of Canton.

With the foregoing explanation I can assure their Lordships I should have been entirely at loss to comprehend the last paragraph of the Under Secretary's letter, in which allusion is made to the protection of British subjects, had I not heard the subject canvassed at Hongkong, and had reason to believe that the complaints that have reached Viscount Palmerston have no reference

to the vessel stationed, and which invariably from the first moment of giving effect to the Treaty (and before my attainment of the command) has been stationed at Whampoa; but to a new pretension, that of having a ship of war stationed off the factories, not for the purpose of carrying out the Treaty, but with the object either of coercing the Chinese people, or affording a shelter to British subjects when they get into conflict with them.

Their Lordships will, I feel persuaded, at once discover that this is altogether a new proposition, and founded on a different principle to that which first led to the establishment of ships of war at ports of trade; and while I should as readily and implicitly carry out the views of Her Majesty's Government upon any other measures, I assuredly should not feel authorized to enter upon the new service without their Lordships' previous commands.

Should I have discovered the true cause of the complaints which appear to have been addressed to the Foreign Office, I consider it to be imperatively my duty to state to their Lordships the grave objections which arise to the proposed establishment of a ship of war abreast of the city of Canton; and I shall perhaps more succinctly and satisfactorily convey these objections to their Lordships by transmitting (as I now have the honour to do) copies of two letters I had occasion to address to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary upon this very subject—one in reply to a communication from him—than by entering into a further long detail.

I have little to add to the statement and opinions those letters contain, unless to observe, that nothing but one of the small steamers which draw five or six feet water can approach Canton by the usual channel, and then but at high water; and that the pass by Blenheim Reach—the only one available to ships of war—continues so much obstructed by the barriers thrown up by the Chinese during hostilities, that a sloop of war would find considerable difficulty (and then only at high water) in reaching the city.

Having had the honour to bring to their Lordships' notice the material points connected with the foregoing subject, I have only to request you will most respectfully assure their Lordships that had I remained in command, I should most readily and implicitly have obeyed any orders and instructions Her Majesty's Government might have thought proper to have enjoined upon me, however much at variance with my own impressions; and I feel fully persuaded my successor, who shall be furnished with a copy of this correspondence, will no less zealously devote his best energies to the fulfillment of their Lordships' commands.—I have, &c.

THOS. COCHRANE.

97.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, April 12. 1847.

Sir,—I have laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 25th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Real-Admiral Sir Thos. Cochrane relative to the question whether a ship of war should be stationed off the factories at Canton; and I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that as there seems reason to hope that there will be no recurrence of riot at Canton, or attack by the mob on the factories, Lord Palmerston is willing that the naval officer in command should be authorized to use his discretion as to withdrawing the British steam vessels from opposite the factory garden.—I have, &c.

H. U. ADDINGTON.

ART. II. *Notices of Fuhchau fú, by S. Johnson, missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. Communicated for the Chinese Repository.*

CONTENTS. 1ST. Description of the River Min, together with the contiguous district between its outlet and the city of Fuhchau. 2. Fuhchau and its suburbs. 3. Probable population of Fuhchau. 4. Objects of interest in and around the city. 5. Physical and moral condition of the people. 6. Their demeanor towards strangers. 7. Language of Fuhchau. 8. Climate. 9. Productions. 10. Commercial importance of Fuhchau. 11. Importance of Fuhchau as a missionary field.

The writer of the following remarks arrived in Fuhchau Jan. 2d 1847, since which time a period of upwards of six months, he has resided in Chungchau, a small island in the river Min in the suburbs of this city. My calling as a missionary requiring me for the present to expend my main energies in the study of the local dialect of this district, I am not as intimately acquainted with this city and its environs, as I might have been, had I allowed myself more time for excursions and extended observation. The want on my arrival here of any common medium of communication with the people, has also been no small obstacle to the attainment of extensive and correct information. But as I have been desired to prepare an article descriptive of this place, I have ventured, though with much diffidence, to attempt the work, hoping that the attempt may contribute to the awakening of a deeper and livelier Christian interest in behalf of the spiritual good of this hitherto neglected people. The major part of the following remarks were written before I recollect to have read any considerable portion of the truly graphic, able, and interesting article of the Rev. George Smith, on Fuhchau fú, published in the April number of the Chinese Repository for 1846, and on examining his notices, I am happy to find a very full correspondence between his impressions and my own regarding this place and people. Though unable to express my thoughts in his clear and fascinating style, yet perhaps, the following observations may in some degree interest the intelligent, Christian reader.

1. The River Min on the north bank of which stands the city of Fuhchau, about thirty miles from its mouth, is a noble stream, navigable for vessels of large size, about twenty miles from its mouth, and

for good sized junks to the bridge connecting Chungchau with Nantai, of which bridge a description will subsequently be attempted. Its outlet is about 26° N. lat. and 12° E. long. After having entered fully within the river, the visitor finds himself between two ridges of mountains, whose bases approach often even to the margin of that beautiful stream. The valley between these mountainous ridges forms the bed of the Min even to the city itself, and it is said for a long distance beyond it. Between the city and the river's mouth, are several small villages, but much of the way the mountains approach too near the river, to allow favorable sites for large settlements. But at these narrow defiles, human industry manifests itself in a pleasing and striking manner; for here the sides of the mountains are cultivated nearly to their summits; ground being laid out in terraces, rising one above another, till they reach an elevation, difficult to be distinctly traced with the unassisted eye. The scenery on the banks of the Hudson, one of the great rivers of North America, has been admired by many a traveler, for its beauty, grandeur and sublimity; but that of the Min bears with it no mean comparison. In one important respect it is indeed much inferior, not being adorned with those numerous, neat, and beautiful villages, that grace the Hudson, showing its banks to be inhabited, by a refined wealthy and enlightened people, blest with the genial influence of the glorious gospel. Some miles above the city; perhaps six or seven miles, the river divides, forming a southern branch, which reënters the main stream, about ten miles below, forming an island perhaps sixteen miles long, and at some points from two to three in breadth. This island consists in great measure, of alluvial land, and is abundantly productive under that thorough and laborious cultivation common in China. Not far below the city, the mountains on the north bank of the Min, diverge from the shore, leaving, between it and them, the large and fertile plain, on which stands Fuhchau with its extensive suburbs. On this plain are several hills, some of which afford a wide prospect of the city and its environs, including the adjacent beautifully cultivated fields, and the encircling mountains.

2. City of Fuhchau and its suburbs. This city, that is Fuhchau within the walls, is situated in a bend of the north and main branch of the Min, having the river on the west, south and southeast, being, perhaps, at no point less than from one and a half to two miles from the same. The city walls are probably at least seven miles long, to walk round the city on them requiring two and a half hours. A large part of the densely populated suburbs is comprized in the

immense town called Nantai which for size and population is a large city within itself.

It lies between the city walls and the river, having the latter contiguous to it on the south and southeast. In extent of territory and population, it is probably not greatly inferior to that of the city proper, and being contiguous to the river, it has superior commercial advantages. Chungchau is a small, but very densely populated island connected with Nantai by the great stone bridge and by a smaller one of similar construction, with the large town on the south bank of the Min, being next to Nantai in size and population. These three places constitute in the main what in this article are called the suburbs of Fuhchau. Their united population is probably not less than within the walls. Little can be said in commendation of the buildings of the city proper or of its suburbs; but it is thought there can be few great cities, in whose neighborhood are more beautifully cultivated plains, or in whose surrounding grand and mountainous scenery, our great Creator has furnished to the eye, a prospect more pleasing, better suited to impress the mind with a sense both of his goodness, and of his almighty power. So far as natural scenery is concerned this place well deserves the name it bears, 福州 Fuhchan, the happy region, where its inhabitants are distinguished for their intelligence, sincere, and enlightened pity; as for the many natural advantages, God has graciously given them, though they know him not, this place might be termed as it were, a second Eden. Among all the places I have yet visited, there is no one commanding so many advantages, in respect to climate, romantic situation, prospect of the city; its adjacent verdant plains, its peaceful and majestic river, and the encircling mountains, as Wú shih shan, the black stone hill, the residence of H. B. M. Consul, R. B. Jackson esq, and family. This hill is in the southwest quarter of the city just within the walls. It is a commanding eminence in the midst of a great natural amphitheatre, from which a distinct view of the most interesting objects within its spacious area is enjoyed. For an experienced painter, an enthusiastic lover of nature in her beautiful, and in her grandeur forms, the prospect from this eminence, would afford a rare and enchanting scene. In my repeated visits, to the consulate, rendered in no small degree pleasant, by the kindness and politeness of its respected residents, I have enjoyed no small satisfaction from this commanding position, in the works of man and especially that of our great Creator, as there portrayed before me. But while I have here feasted on the Creator's

works, as displayed in the heavens above and in the surrounding lovely panorama, my heart has been pained, by the saddening reflection, that the hundreds of thousands of immortal souls inhabiting the great city, and its suburbs lying below me are yet unacquainted with the true God, and are the worshipers of dumb idols, the servants of the prince of the power of the air, and with him exposed to never-ending woe. May a brighter, happier day soon dawn upon this benighted people.

As seen from this hill, with the exception of individual trees, here and there, lifting their heads above the surrounding dwellings, the city appears like a con'iguous mass, of murky habitations, generally one story high, the streets being too narrow to be distinguished from this devotion. As to width and want of cleanliness, they are much like those of Canton, or a medium between that and Amoy. The floors of the houses are seldom more than a foot above the level of the adjoining streets, and many have no floor but the ground. The upper apartments of the better houses are nought but ill-ventilated garrets and being covered with tiles, they must in the summer be excessively hot. The outer walls, of many of the better houses are very thick, built of imperfectly burnt brick, or of broken brick combined with a large amount of clay, and the inner partitions often consist, the lower half, of well jointed pine boards, and the upper of clay, on a frame work of bamboo, overlaid with lime, which gives them, when new, a neat and inviting appearance. The outer walls are more commonly plastered. This description applies to the better sort of houses both within the walls and in the suburbs. But the majority of the people occupy houses, far less comfortable. The streets are paved with granite, but often roughly. In the dwellings of this people there is the same want of order and cleanliness, which is characteristic of other heathen communities. To those accustomed to the neatness and good order of English and American houses, there is in the habitations of this people little appearance of comfort. Ill-lighted and ill-ventilated, as they are, one might justly infer, that their inmates must greatly undervalue the light of day and the refreshing breeze. This city being the capital of Fuhkien province, and also the seat of government of that of Chehkiáng, it is natural the residence of the viceroy, and his assistants in office, which including the local magistrates are a numerous body. But with the exception that the residences of the powerful mandarins, consist of numerous apartments, and cover a large extent of ground, they have little claim to separate notice. The streets have already indirectly been represented as narrow and

wanting in cleanliness. The principal one without the city proper, is that between Chungchau and the city walls, crossing the large stone bridge across the north branch of the Min, and passing through Nantai, a distance of three miles. It is the grand thoroughfare of this place, constantly thronged with passengers, and occupied by almost every description of traders and mechanics, most common to China. Its general course is about northwest. The streets here, not allowing wheel carriages of any description, there is no alternative, but either to walk, to ride on horseback, or be borne by coolies in a sedan chair. Few here ride on horseback, and these are generally inferior officers of the government. Riding in the sedan chair is here a very common mode of traveling, few of the more wealthy and respectable of the Chinese deeming it respectable for a long distance to walk the crowded streets, although to many Englishmen and Americans, the thought of being thus borne by his fellowmen is unpleasant. For three English miles the Chinese ordinarily pay not above 60 cash, or about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents American currency. The poor bearers expect more of foreigners. The main thoroughfares are indeed so crowded by the multitude, many of whom are ragged and loathsomely filthy, and the chair-bearers are so constantly passing to and fro with a rapid step, with but little regard to others' safety, that the foot man suffers no little inconvenience and without great watchfulness is likely to be knocked down. Instances of this are not very uncommon. The traveler too is greatly incommoded by the multitude of coolies with heavy burdens passing to and fro for every description of articles in use among the people must be transported by human labor. However there are duties in connection with my office as a missionary, that induce me in most cases to go on foot. Each chair has ordinarily only two bearers, but the principal mandarins employ four, and the viceroy and a few others high in office have eight bearers. There are few points at which the city walls are visible from the river, on account of the great distance from it to them. The low miserable dwellings of the suburbs bordering on the river, are united to give the stranger a very unfavorable impression, in respect to the physical condition of the mass of this people. While ascending the river opposite Nantai, a distance of nearly two miles, he will see very few dwellings in which he would feel that he could long reside without much discomfort and no small hazard both to health and to life. And what is the grand cause of the vast difference between this city and the principal cities of England and America, in respect to extensive comfort and elegance? It is the

possession of the glorious gospel, that has made England and America thus comparatively elevated and happy. What were our ancestors before they were illumined with its glorious beams? How great enemies then must those be to their country who by the dissemination of infidel principles would blot out that light which is through God's providence the foundation of their dignity and bliss!

3. Probable population of Fuhchau, and its suburbs. The population of this place, I regard as a matter of great uncertainty. By different individuals it has been differently estimated, but the prevailing impression is, that it cannot be less than 600,000 souls. I have yet seen no government statistics on this subject. That there is an immense congregation of precious souls is certain. If, as has been stated, or I know not what authority, this city and its environs, contains 120,000 houses and to each house, we allow only five individuals, a very moderate estimate, the aggregate population would be 600,000. Besides on the river there is a large floating population. Among the five ports, this city is thought to be the second in point of population, and yet among them all, it is the only one to which protestant missionaries have not in considerable numbers been sent, myself in the providence of God, and contrary to my previous hopes, having been first called to enter this field with any prospect of being here a permanent laborer. Why should Fuhchau fū be thus neglected? This place has also been little noticed by the mercantile community, that is, as a field for the prosecution of a legal trade.

4. Interesting objects within and around the city proper. To myself, one of the most interesting classes of objects, here to be seen, viewed in connection with the cardinal doctrine of the resurrection of the dead and of the general judgment, is the immense burial grounds in the vicinity, the abode of the earthly remains of forgotten millions. One of these immense repositories of the dead, is on the large island on the south side of the river, opposite Nantai. It is a large hill extending in the line of the river about one and a half miles, and at some points may be from one half to three quarters of a mile in breadth. This eminence is mainly covered with graves, and yet the multitude of its sleeping inmates is fast increasing and will probably so continue to do, till the coming of that great day, when all that are in these graves, shall hear the voice of the son of God and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation. How many have been interred it is impossible to form any reasonable conjecture, for notwithstanding the veneration of the Chi-

nese for the graves of their deceased kindred and countrymen, it is said to be customary after the lapse of ten years or upwards, from the time of burial, in case there are no monuments to perpetuate the names of the deceased, and no friends to care for their remains, to reopen their graves and enter others above them. As regards the miserable poor, a very numerous class here, after the lapse of three or four years, from their burial, these graves, I am told, are allowed to be opened and others to be interred above them, the uppermost often at a depth of not above two feet below the surface. The graves of those who have surviving kindred and friends, especially, if wealthy and influential are more respected; thus within the lapse of a century in numerous cases, ten or more individuals, may be interred in the same little plot of earth. How full of meaning the sentence, "Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return." In a country so densely populated as this region, and many other parts of China, thus to dispose of the dead may be a matter of necessity, as the arable land is wanted for the support of the living. The rich sometimes open the graves, some years after their interment, wash their bones, deposit them in urns and reinter them. The high lands in the suburbs, and the sides of the mountains, in the neighborhood of the city, are extensively occupied as burial grounds.

The burial ground just described is near my residence in the small island of Chungchau, and is the only place, to which in the cool of the day, I can conveniently retire for recreation and the enjoyment of the pure, refreshing breeze, and be at the same time released from the confined city, and the press of the curious, inquisitive crowd. This hill also commands an extensive and beautiful prospect of the city and rural scenery including the river, broad and verdant rice plains on the west, northeast and south, and the encircling mountains.

As I have here alone wandered among the graves of the long forgotten dead, solemn thoughts have rushed upon my mind, thoughts of death, of the resurrection, of the judgment day, and of the final destiny of the righteous and of the wicked. What a scene must this hill present in that day when at the command of Christ the innumerable millions of the dead shall arise, each to be judged and to receive his final award! Taking the Bible for our guide in respect to the character in God's sight and the final portion of the idolater, where must most of the countless millions of the adult dead of the former generations of the Chinese be found, when Jesus shall pronounce the final doom of an ungodly world. The inquiry is an awfully solemn and deeply painful one, and yet it may be profitable, as a means of stimu-

lating Christians to pray and labor for the salvation of the heathen while yet they remain in the land of the living, and in the land of hope. Soon the present generation of the heathen, will with ourselves, have finished their earthly career, and entered on their final, eternal award. What we would do for them we must do quickly. The night cometh wherein no man can work. How fearful the declaration. The wicked shall be cast into hell, and all the nations that forget God. The temples in Fuhchau, which I have yet seen are small, and greatly inferior to the Buddhist establishments in Siam. The largest in this place is one seen on the south side of the river, opposite Nantai. It was built by the traders from Ningpo and is dedicated to 天上聖母, the protectress of seamen. It merits no particular description. In Siam, Buddhism is munificently patronized by the king and his nobles, and the priesthood are adored by all classes, from the king to the lowest of his people, but here it is little respected, yea rather despised, though it is not without its influence over the public mind. Some of the temples are richly endowed. Here the priests do not, as in Siam and Burmah, proudly solicit their daily food from house to house, each morning swarming from their splendid establishments, and scattering themselves over cities and villages, but their support is said to be in the main derived from the products of landed property, devoted to this object.

Among the works of art here of particular interest, no one is perhaps more worthy of notice, both on account of its great antiquity, and the massiveness of its construction, than the large stone bridge, crossing the Min between Nantai, and the small island of Chungchau. It is stated to have been built 800 years since, and considering the strength of its materials, and the manner of its construction, this statement seems not improbable. It is 1698 feet long, and 13 wide, from the foundation to the top stone being built of granite. It is built upon thirty five piers, pointed like a wedge, the convergence commencing with their projection beyond the railing of the bridge both on its upper and lower sides. From pier to pier extend stones of immense size, falling on the piers at right angles, some of these stones being not less than forty-eight feet long, and about three feet in breadth and thickness. Extending from pier to pier in close contiguity to each other, there are in some cases four, in others five of these large stones. Above these is a thick stone platform, the stones being at right angles with the sleepers just described, and in some cases secured one to another by iron clasps. On each side of the bridge is also a strong stone railing, the rails being mortised,

into massive pillars at unequal distances from each other. The most curious point of inquiry is, how its builders were able to cut out of the solid rock, bring to the spot, and over a rapid river, raise to so great a height, stones of such magnitude supposing them no more acquainted with the mechanical powers than the Chinese now are. The bridge connecting Chungchau with the large town on the south bank of the river opposite Nantai is built like the one just described, but is only about one quarter as long. On each of these bridges, stalls are allowed to be erected occupied by various orders of mechanics and by small traders making the space remaining for the constant stream of passengers quite narrow. Aside from their magnitude, there is little to render the city wall worthy of particular description. In length, by those resident here, who have walked round the city, they are supposed to be about seven miles, about two and a half hours being required to complete the circuit. Their height is different at different points, varying from 15 to 40 feet, and in width, they are about 17 feet, and built of stone. On the top of the wall at its outer edge, is a brick parapet, with post holes, distant the one from the other perhaps 16 feet, between which are apertures for small arms. At long intervals there are projecting bastions, on each of which are planted generally from two to three heavy guns pointing outwards, but badly mounted. These bastions, are covered with tiled roofs and occupied as guard houses. This city was the theatre of sanguinary revolutions, prior to the subjugation of this province by the Chin 清 dynasty which occurred about 900 years since. A considerable military force is stationed here, not probably however of very effective character. The eastern section of the city is allotted to the Tartar population, whose numbers are variously estimated, perhaps, they may number 5,000. For kindness and civility, they have not a good name among the Chinese.

5. Physical and moral condition of the people. The physical condition of this people considered individually differs greatly according to their different characters and the grade in society to which they belong. Those occupying official situations, and consequently subsisting on the bounty of the government, and money in various ways drawn from the people, though in many instances much straitened for a livelihood, in general appear to be well provided for, and maintain a very respectable appearance. The contrast between them and the common people is great, though the countenances of many of them indicate slavery to the use of opium. Of the poverty of some of the inferior mandarins, rather an affecting

instance has recently come to my knowledge. A gentleman in governmental employ recently came hither from Peking, who has since died leaving a wife and three children in very destitute circumstances, and about 1000 miles from home. They now live in a miserable looking house a few doors from my residence. One of the children, a little boy of nine years, who reads and speaks the mandarin very readily has repeatedly called upon me.

School teachers here enjoy comparatively a good degree of patronage, education being highly esteemed, but as a class they are said to be much addicted to the use of opium, which must to themselves and families be the source of much misery. Among those claiming to belong to the literati, none according to public opinion are so enslaved to strong drugs and the use of opium as that numerous class who are employed in the public offices as writers and interpreters. Judging as I am obliged to do from very limited data, my impression is that the profits of the mercantile class are small, but yet with wise economy sufficient to afford them a very respectable livelihood. But the general testimony is that nearly one half of them are opium smokers. A large portion of the more wealthy and respectable merchants of this place are from neighboring countries and provinces. The agricultural class living in the neighborhood of the city is numerous, and the wages of the laborers being small in proportion to the cost of food and clothing, many of them must struggle hard for a livelihood. But they have the appearance of possessing a good degree of physical vigor. This is especially true of the females belonging to that class. They are a hardy, good looking athletic class of females, contrasting strikingly with the hobbling, cramp-footed females of the city and its suburbs.

A vast multitude is here employed in connection with the different mechanic arts, and apparently a large number in connection with the fine arts, such as painting and sculpture. They are obliged to work hard for a livelihood, and their appearance is a very unfavorable indication of their physical condition and moral habits. The next in order below these are the coolies and chair-bearers, a very numerous and important class. Their appearance and their real condition are indeed pitiable and abject, being filthy in their persons, poorly clad, and often emaciated in flesh. Their daily earnings, can amount to but a mere pittance, and when a large portion of that pittance is spent in the purchase of opium, they must indeed be wretched. But there is another, very numerous class, whose condition, is far more pitiable, wretched and forlorn, than that of any yet mentioned, name-

ly the common beggars. Their true number I have no means of determining. Within the city proper and suburbs, as I have described them, including Nantai, Chungchau, and the large town on the south bank of the Min, they may possibly amount to many hundreds if not to some thousands. The mass of them are exceedingly filthy in their persons, ragged, and without habitations. It is distressing to see them dragging their feeble and emaciated forms through the streets, or prostrate by the way side, as if about to drop into the grave. Probably their wretchedness in most cases is the consequence of their vices and their crimes. Some inflict wounds on their own persons, and with the blood streaming down their faces solicit the charity of the public. Sometimes by covering themselves with filth, thus making their presence as loathsome as possible, they seek by the odiousness of their presence to compel the public the sooner to dismiss them with a pittance. But these beggars are nevertheless men of one common stock with ourselves; yet how fallen, how degraded! All this is the effect of sin. These heggars have their head men, being individuals appointed by the local magistrates to manage their concerns. Their authority over them, if I am correctly informed is very arbitrary, extending not simply to flogging in cases of misdemeanor, but to death itself by being buried alive. Such a statement seems almost incredible: but yet my informant is a man of much intelligence and apparent veracity, at least when there is no inducement to falsehood as in the present case. Within the ten districts into which this county is divided are fifty of these head men five in each district. These miserable vagrants not unfrequently die by the way side or in the street. The government here makes provision for times of great scarcity, by keeping a large amount of rice on hand in store-houses to be distributed to the needy in seasons of distress, or sold to the poor at reduced prices according to circumstances. The present being a season of scarcity, rice being uncommonly high, the public granaries have been opened, and rice sold to the needy at a reduced price. The applicants are required to bring certificates from the 地保 *ti páu* or magistrates of their respective districts, testifying to their needy circumstances, and the number dependant on them for food. Although these granaries are under the control of the government, yet I am informed, that the money by which the rice when cheap is purchased, is contributed by the wealthy among the people. Grain is also stored up by the government for the use of the military, but this is kept distinct from that which is designed for the relief of the poor. For

the aged poor and the blind, who have no friends to provide for them, provision is to some extent made by the voluntary contributions of the rich, dispensed to them through the urgency of the *ti páu* above-mentioned.

Leprous individuals are not allowed to roam at large, but I am informed that within the city, four asylums are provided for them, in which they are fed and sustained. The number of these miserable beings gathered into their retreats is said to be near a thousand. This disease is here considered contagious, and being loathsome and incurable, is the object of great terror and dread. About five years since, as I am told, an individual in this vicinity was smitten with the leprosy, and to save himself from communicating the disease to his kindred requested to be inclosed in a coffin and buried alive. His wish was granted, and he was interred in the burial ground already described. The remains of lepers are said to be burnt. My Chinese teacher tells me that on the river Min above this a hundred miles, or thereabouts, are one or two counties in which the unhappy leper is thus treated. He is put into a small boat furnished with a small quantity of rice, wood, and some other necessaries, and suffered to float down the river, all other boats avoiding contact with him. A few days generally terminates his wretched existence. The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. The leprosy is supposed to originate in most cases from the want of personal cleanliness, and living in warm, damp and ill-ventilated habitations.

As regards the general aspect of this great community, I am constrained to say, that the appearance of the mass of the people, as seen in their shops, in the streets, and elsewhere, including their small stature, prevailing rather slender form, in many cases sallow and emaciated countenances, extensive want of cleanliness, and decent comfortable apparel, conjoined with the character of their habitations, indicates that among them there must be a sad deficiency of domestic comfort and no small degree of physical wretchedness. This physical deterioration and wretchedness cannot however arise from the want of a propitious and healthful climate, or a country abundantly productive, under good cultivation, and distinguished for the beauty and grandeur of its scenery. It cannot it is thought be attributable, except in a small degree to the character of their government, for the taxes, whether direct or indirect are not thought to be heavy, compared with those of Great Britain and some other countries; life and property also are safe, and industry is encouraged. It does not necessarily arise from the density of the population; for Holland, for

example, is more densely populated, than perhaps any large division of the Chinese Empire, and yet that people are prosperous and happy, well supplied with all the necessities, and even abounding in the luxuries of life. Perhaps there is no spot on earth, that might not sustain a much larger population than it now does, with the blessing of God upon a due degree of well directed industry, accompanied with true piety and strictly virtuous habits. The misery here existing must therefore undoubtedly arise in great part from the vicious habits that here prevail. The one vicious indulgence, to which it is here generally believed nearly or quite one half of the adult male population of this place are more or less addicted, namely the smoking of opium, is not improbably a more fruitful source of poverty, crime, and wretchedness, than any other one, perhaps than the majority of their other vicious habits united. When wages are so low as they here are, in comparison with the cost of food and clothing, the bare purchase of opium by such multitudes must vastly detract from the general comfort of the community and lay the foundation of extensive and extreme poverty. But the cost of the drug is but a small item in the amount of misery of which it is the occasion. Its use disqualifies the unhappy consumer for business, makes him the victim of premature debility, and more generally of an early grave. Who has the sallow countenance, the sunken eye, the feeble emaciated form? It is emphatically the confirmed opium smoker, who from the midst of plenty both for himself, his wife and his children, is by the cost of his poison, and its destructive influence on his health and his business habits, soon reduced to poverty, and his family almost to starvation? Such is the history of the opium smoker. Whose vices early induce loathsome disease, and plunge their victims into a premature grave and an awful eternity? None perhaps more frequently than that of the slaves of opium. And yet this drug is furnished to the Chinese in great part, through the agencies of a Christian government, and of individuals born and educated in Christian lands, to the premature destruction in this great empire of probably many tens, if not of hundreds of thousands of precious lives. The victims of the poison thus furnished, are our brethren. Who must be answerable for their blood? This drug is sold to them in violation of the laws of this realm, and should it not be added in violation of the dictates of humanity and of that law that requires us to love our neighbor as ourselves? The love of gain is the best and only reason that can be assigned for the commencement and perpetuation of this trade. But in view of the fact that

there is a righteous and holy God who minds the affairs of men, is money thus acquired likely to be an ultimate advantage to its possessors? Should we not seriously ponder the language of the Apostle James in the 1st three verses of the fifth chap. of his general epistle? Its import in relation to those, who have acquired money, by means which infinite holiness cannot approve is solemn and fearful. Is smuggling in Christian lands a righteous employment, even in articles not hurtful to the public? And can smuggling then in China in the article of *opium* be innocent? Is it less criminal because the Chinese government cannot suppress it? Does the weakness of a government give us a moral right to trample on laws intended for the protection of property and of life? But supposing the trade was a legalized one, could it be morally justifiable? Would it be right to put into the hands of an infatuated individual, the means by which, whether designedly or not, he is sure to destroy his own life? Is not opium thus used by the Chinese as a means of self destruction? Can we knowingly minister to multitudes the means of self destruction and be altogether innocent of their blood. Would that those whom this subject most intimately concerns would seriously examine it in the fear of God, before whom, each one for himself must shortly appear in judgment. Neither rank, wealth nor power, nothing in the wide universe, can tempt him to swerve from the utmost impartiality in his decisions. I am personally acquainted with few, who are concerned in the opium trade, and have no unkind feelings towards any individuals, but I thus speak out of a benevolent regard to the respected mercantile community unhappily involved in this trade, from love to the temporal and eternal well-being of the Chinese, and in view of my responsibility to God, as his ambassador to this dying people. I dare not be silent on a subject so deeply affecting those, for whose souls I am called to watch, lest by so doing I should become chargeable with their blood. I am not insensible of my personal obligation to respected individuals involved in the opium traffic. As in the providence of God I am situated, there are powerful reasons, why I should wish in all things to please them; but above all others we are bound to seek to please God. But sometimes duty to God requires us to do that which may provoke the displeasure of man. Says Paul the great apostle, If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Jesus Christ. Can it reasonably be expected that the missionary should do other wise than feel deeply and speak warmly, yet in love, in view of a traffic, which is hurrying multitudes of those for whose salvation, he is called to

labor to the grave and a miserable eternity? Could he be faithful to his divine master and do otherwise, while at least there is any hope that his appeals may contribute to the good of precious souls? God sometimes owns the humblest instrumentality to the production of great and happy moral changes. "The excellency of the power is of God."

It need hardly be said, that it is no valid argument in justification of the opium trade, to say. "If I do not furnish opium to the Chinese, others will, and if the trade must continue, why should not I be a partaker of the profits? There are few crimes which in supposable circumstances, such an argument might not be employed to justify. Admitting the trade to be sinful, it should be a sufficient reason for its abandonment, that we are commanded by the highest authority, not to go with the multitude to do evil. It is no justification of this trade, that it is prosecuted in subserviency to the interests of the East India Company, by whom as a source of revenue, most of the opium is produced. No government is infallible. Corporate bodies are often remarkably wanting in conscience. Men will often do in a corporate capacity, what they would almost shudder at the thought of doing as individuals. Our connection with the powerful in the violation of the law of love, can screen us neither from guilt, nor from punishment. There is *one* in whose sight, the nations are but as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance, and by whose power the proudest empires are prostrated in the dust. Could we as with the eye of omniscience, see at one glance, the myriads of the wretched slaves of opium in China, as they appear in public, in their families, in their private recesses, inhaling its poisonous fumes, also in those numerous murky dens, in which the impoverished multitude assemble to gratify the gnawings of a depraved appetite, could we also penetrate their hearts, and know the anguish, with which, in view of their bondage, they are often worn, and behold them, as the effect of their suicidal indulgence, rapidly falling into the yawning grave, what would be our sensations, and our impressions in regard to the opium trade? But its effects are not limited to themselves, but their wives, their children and a circle of relatives and friends must suffer with them. The mother with the children perhaps is reduced to starvation, or sold into bondage to gratify the insatiable appetite of the cruel husband and father. But to see the worst effects of this form of intemperance, we must look beyond the grave. Could we for a few moments draw aside the curtain, that hides from our view the scenes of another

world, and see the despairing multitudes of suicides from the use of opium, in hell, lifting up their eyes in torments, listen to their agonizing cries, and their horrid imprecations on those who have ministered to their ruin what painful sensations must fill our souls! Is it not wise to endeavor to follow our conduct to its probable consequences? In view of such scenes what would be thought of the acquisition of property by the opium trade? Would not riches thus acquired be regarded as the greatest of calamities? As an argument, against the trade in opium, we may appeal to the fact that by its draining the Chinese of their money, producing physical and mental debility, idleness, crime and premature death, it is cutting the sinews of legal trade. Can any people, who, by a course of vicious indulgence, have reduced themselves to physical and mental imbecility, as well as to poverty, be profitable customers? Would the prudent calculating merchant choose to establish himself in such a community? Would he not rather select for his customers, a virtuous, industrious and thriving people? Otherwise he could not hope to prosper in his business, except perhaps temporarily, by feeding on the vices of society, an expedient that must be revolting to the feelings of every enlightened and good man, and ruinous in its result. A vicious community, like the dead carcass, has not within itself the elements of self preservation, but its natural tendency must be to still deeper corruption, poverty, and wretchedness. Trade consisting in the business of exchange, in proportion, as China is impoverished, and rendered imbecile in body and in mind by the purchase and consumption of opium, in that degree, commerce with her, must become unprofitable, inasmuch as she must have proportionably less to give in exchange for the productions of the western world. Moreover supposing that the trade in opium did not in the least, disable China from being a producer, still if she has the ability to purchase of the foreigner only to a specified extent, and no small portion of her disposable means, is employed in the purchase of opium, her transactions with the legal trader must be proportionably curtailed. If moreover opium be to a great extent given to the Chinese, or the avails of its sale, in lieu of their silks, and other articles, the interests of the foreign manufacturer must suffer from the abridgment of the market for his goods. The more extensively opium becomes an article of exchange for the productions of China, the more limited must be the sale of the manufactures of the western world. Moreover opium smokers, being obliged to expend their money in the

purchase of opium, can as a class buy but a small amount of western products.

It is worthy of remark also, that the moral impression in respect to foreigners, that a perseverance in this trade, in violation of the laws of the empire, must produce upon the Chinese mind, cannot fail to be in the highest degree unfavorable to confidence in us and destruction of good feeling. The great body of the most respectable, best educated, and most influential among the Chinese, cannot be supposed to be ignorant of the destructive influence of opium, to health, to property, and to life, nor of the relation in which this trade stands to their own government, which they still respect and revere. Feelings of indignation toward the foreigner, it would seem could not but arise in their bosoms, at the view of the physical and moral desolations, which for the sake of gain, through an illegal traffic, he is spreading over their country, involving many of their own friends in misery and disgrace. The unhappy slaves to opium although they hug to their bosoms, the viper, whose bite is death, yet in their more sober moments, when reflecting on their bondage, they must not only deeply condemn themselves for their folly in courting suicide but view with deep abhorrence those who have ministered to their self destruction.

What would be the feelings of English and American patriots, in respect to any foreign community, who should by illegal trade, and in defiance of law, pour in upon their respective countries, such a tide of desolation, as is now rushing in upon the Chinese? Would not millions of bosoms burn with a deep and unquenchable indignation against the aggressors? Though as a people, the Chinese are remarkably apathetic, yet some degree of patriotism still survives in their bosoms. May not their outward respect for the foreigner, in the majority of cases, result rather from fear, than from inward esteem? Considering the nature of the opium trade, and its already having been the immediate occasion, if not the main cause of a war so excessive in blood and treasure, and other causes of national irritation, it is rather a matter of surprise than otherwise, that they are no more, instead of being no less hostile in their feelings towards the western world.

In view of what has already been said on the subject of trade as consisting in the business of exchange, it is apparent, that would nations be profitable to each other in way of trade, they must in their commercial transactions, as well as in other respects, seek each other's prosperity, and not demoralization and ruin. Thus individual

and national prosperity, so far as it is connected with commercial intercourse, is dependant on a compliance with that law of mutual love, inculcated in the glorious gospel, and illustrated in the life and death of our Savior.

(*To be continued*)

ART. III. *Bibliotheca Sinica: Introduction; No. 3 Shing Yü Kwáng Hiun, or An Amplification of the Sacred edict.* By the late Rev. Dr. WILLIAM MILNE, (continued from p. 454.)

“None but an author knows an author's cares.” *Cowper.*

MR. EDITOR,—Though it be not strictly polite, I have been laying my ear to the doors of some of the readers of your Miscellany, wishing if possible to know what opinion they entertain of my papers contained in this Bibliotheca; for it is common I have heard, among those of your species, who aspire to authorship, to feel a little solicitude about the fate of their works. Though pertaining to a different class of beings, yet I have this solicitude in common with scribblers of the human race. Many remarks, I perceive have been made; and many more are about to be made. Some persons seem upon the whole satisfied; and entertain a hope that, if I strive to improve every following paper, and make it more worthy of perusing than the one which immediately precedes it, I shall then stand a fair chance, though not of attaining eminence among learned men, yet of rising to a moderate share of fame among aspiring reptiles. Thus far it is good; and, as I am always inclined to take a hint from those who appear to put the fairest construction on my conduct, so I beg leave to inform these Gentlemen, that it shall be my endeavor to meet their wishes and realize their hopes. Others, however, find fault, and particularly with my prefaces. One says: “in his attempts to be witty, he descends to that which is low.”—A second says: “When he tries to be grave, all is forced, stiff, and unnatural.”—And a third rejoins: “Yes; and when he presumes to instruct, there is such a monastic dogmatism about it.”—Thus, Mr. Editor, I find it hard to please all parties. However, I certainly did expect that Gentlemen educated in Seminaries, Colleges, Universities, and other such places of high sounding name, would have learnt to make due allowances for one born and bred between the leaves of a book. Candour, Sir, I fear, scarcely comes into the course of academical learning. To be honest, I really thought that my efforts deserved even some credit from mankind; but I now see that it is really no easy matter to make other people think of one's productions, as he himself thinks of them. To cut short this preamble, I herewith send you the analysis of another Chinese book, demanding only for my labor, an impartial account of how it is received by the public,

TU YU.

No. III.

TITLE.—聖諭廣訓 Shing-Yii Kwáng-Hiun, i. e. "AN AMPLIFICATION OF THE SHING-YÜ."

AUTHOR.—This book had three authors, each of whom took a distinct department. The sixteen themes which form the ground work of it, and which are called the Shing-yü, i. e. Sacred Edict, were written by the Emperor Kang-he, the second of the reigning Dynasty, toward the close of his life. It was by order of the same Emperor, that the famous Chinese Imperial Dictionary, of which I hope, at a future time to give a brief account, was compiled. The amplification of the themes, Kwang-hiun, i. e. an extended exhortation, was written by Kang-he. The third department of the work, which is a PARAPHRASE ON THE AMPLIFICATION, was executed by WANG-YEW-PO, Superintendent of the Salt Revenue, in the Province of Shen-see.

DATE.—I have not been able to ascertain in what year Kang-he delivered the themes; but as it was towards the latter part of his life, we may place the date between A. D. 1730 and 1735, for his reign closed in the year 1735, (vide Morrison's Philological View of China, page 4.) The amplification was written by Yoong-ching in the second year of his reign, (about A. D. 1736-7.) The preface is dated in the 2d moon of his second year. In what year Wang-yew-po wrote the paraphrase, does not appear.

NATURE OF THE WORK.—It treats of moral duties, and political economy; like all similar Chinese publications, it begins with filial piety, and from thence branches out into various other relative duties, in order, according to their supposed importance. Indeed, on whatever subject a Chinese writer treats, he can at all times with the utmost facility draw arguments for its support, from the relation between parent and child—even the grossest absurdities of their idolatry are thus supported. The work we are now considering, is in general, for the matter of it well worth a perusal. Though Christians can derive no improvement to their ethics from it, yet it will confirm them more and more in the belief of two important points: viz. that God has not left himself without a witness in the minds of the heathen; and that the bare light of nature, as it is called, even when aided by all the light of Pagan philosophy, is totally incapable of leading men to the knowledge and worship of the true God. Yet, for my own part as an individual, I am of opinion that, as all truth and all good come originally from the same source, so we ought to look with a degree of reverence on those fragments of just sentiment and good principle, which we sometimes meet with among the heathen.

FORM, &c.—Generally four vols. octavo, containing in all (preface included) 133 pages. It is divided into sixteen sections, and has three prefaces; one by Yoong-ching, one by Han-fung, who was Foo-yuen of Canton in the 13th year of the present emperor, and the third, by Seen-foh, also a member of the Canton Government about the same time. But these two prefaces

were written to subsequent editions of the work, and, are out of reverence to Yoong-ching's preface, placed at the end of the last vol. The body of the work is arranged in the following order: First, the Theme; secondly, the Amplification; and thirdly, the Paraphrase. The Themes are all written in a sort of measured Prose; they contain each SEVEN characters, and are composed with such studied accuracy, that the character 以 i—"in order to, or that," is placed in the middle as the fourth word of each line: thus the themes are comprised in 112 characters. The characters of each amplification, are numbered, and the number set down at the close: the sixteen amplifications, contain in all TEN THOUSAND AND TEN CHARACTERS. They say ten thousand, but that expresses the round number, for, on reckoning there are ten more. Like the Hebrews, the Chinese number the words of greatly valued books.

The following are examples of this, in their classical books:

The Heaou-king 1,903 characters, Lun-yü 11,705, with the paraphrase 76,736 characters, Mung-tsze 34,685, with commentary 209,749, Yih-king 24,107, Shoo-king 25,700, She-king 39,234, Le-kee, 99,010, Chou-lee 45,806, Chun-Tscu, and Tso-Chuen 196,845.

To which calculation it is added: "to read 300 characters daily, one will complete the whole (commentaries not included) in four years and a half." They number the characters for the sake of dividing the aggregate into small daily or monthly portions for the learner. They also sometimes reckon the characters of the commentaries on the KING, e. g. of the Four books for the same purpose.

The paraphrase on each section of the Shing-yü, uniformly commences thus: 萬歲爺意思說 Wan-suy-yay-e-sze-shwoh—i. e. "The meaning of his Imperial Majesty is to this effect." All the four volumes are often bound in one. The work on good paper costs, in Canton, about 2s. 6d. English. There is a small pocket edition of the SHING-YÜ, without the paraphrase.

This work was translated into English in 1815, and printed in London, in 1717, under the title of "The Sacred Edict."

- 1.—Duties of children and brothers.
- 1.—Respect to kindred.
- 3.—Concord among neighbours.
- 4.—Importance of husbandry.
- 5.—The value of economy.
- 6.—Academical learning.
- 7.—False religions exposed.
- 8.—On the knowledge of the laws.
- 9.—Illustration of the principles of good breeding.
- 10.—Importance of attending to the essential occupations.
- 11.—The instruction of youth.
- 12.—The evil of false accusing.

- 13.—The consequences of hiding deserters.
 14.—The payment of the taxes.
 15.—The necessity of extirpating robbery and theft.
 16.—The importance of settling animosities.

COMPOSITION AND STYLE.—The themes are written with remarkable conciseness. The amplification is expressed in fine, classical language; but the structure of the composition is artificial, and the sentences often long and involved. The style of the paraphrase is perfectly colloquial, but abounds with the provincialisms of Chih-lee, having been written in the northern dialect. The paraphrast wrote in a style vastly better suited for general utility. By numerous proverbs, quaint sayings, and a familiar phraseology, he has rendered the book easy, instructive, and entertaining to the common people. The provincialisms excepted, the style of the paraphrase, may be considered a good model for Christian Missionaries, in their oral addresses to the Chinese, and in writing religious tracts. The verbosity of the paraphrase, and the employing of some particles in a peculiar, and unusual sense, render some parts of it difficult to the foreign student of Chinese. It is however much easier than the amplification, and should be read by him first: he will proceed to the more classical part with great advantages, after having read the same subject in the colloquial style.

EXTRACTS. AS the translation of the Shing-yü, is already before the public, I shall not enlarge under this head, but shall barely transcribe an extract from Yoong-ehings's preface, showing his motives for enlarging on the themes of his father.

“Our sacred father, the benevolent Emperor, for a long period of time employed the doctrine of perfect renovation. His virtue was extensive as the ocean; and his grace, widely diffused to the boundaries of heaven. His benevolence nourished the myriads of things; and his righteousness rectified the myriads of the people. For sixty years, morning and evening, eating and dressing, his only care was to excite all both within and beyond, the boundaries of the Empire, to exalt virtue; put away illiberality; and accord with fidelity. The design of this was, that all, cherishing the spirit of kindness and humility, might enjoy an eternal reign of peace! Hence of set purpose, he graciously conferred an edict, containing sixteen maxims, to inform the soldiers of the Tartar race, together with the soldiers and people of the various provinces, of their whole duty, from the practice of the radical virtues to the duties of husbandry and the culture of cotton and silk. To their laboring and resting; to the commencement and the close; to the course and the fine; and to the public and the private; to the large and the minute; and to whatever was proper, for a people to practise,—to all these his most enlightened thoughts extended. He viewed you, people, as the children of his own flesh. His sacred instructions [like those of the ancient sages] clearly point out the means of certain protection. Ten thousand ages should observe them! To improve on them is impossible!

“Since we succeeded to the charge of the great monarchy, and have ruled over the millions of the people, we have conformed our mind to the mind of our

sacred father; and our government to his. Morning and evening, with toad-like exertion, have we endeavored to conform to the ancient laws and usages.

"Fearing that the common people, after practising and obeying for a length of time, may become negligent, we again issue our instructions in order to keep them awake.

"Most reverently taking the sixteen maxims of the sacred edict, we have deeply meditated on their principles; and amplified the style, by an addition of about ten thousand characters. Drawing similitudes from things near and remote, quoting ancient books, going and returning, about and about, in order fully to explain the sense, we have written in a verbose and homely style; and called the work, AN AMPLIFICATION OF THE SACRED EDICT. Our design in this was none else than to unfold the minds of posterity, by revealing to them the will of their progenitors, that each family and individual of the people may clearly understand it.

"We wish you soldiers and people, to realize, and act conformably to, our father's sublime intention of rectifying your virtue, and of nourishing your lives.

"Do not consider this as a mere customary harangue, or vain display of authority; but let all carefully watch over the body, and act the part of a cautious and economical people. Completely cast aside all degrading, illiberal, and contentious practices. Then manners will improve; families will live in harmony; the Government will rejoice in seeing renovation perfected by virtue; and your own posterity will share of this happiness. The family that stores up virtue, will have superabounding felicity! How equitable is this doctrine!"*

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.—The Shing-yü was appointed to be read publicly, on the first and fifteenth of each moon, to the people and soldiery of every province; but in spring and harvest it is frequently omitted. This is the only kind of public instruction professedly for the people, known to exist in the Chinese Empire. It is said, to be generally read both in Tartar and in Chinese; in the former, to the Manchow Tartar soldiers, in the latter to the Chinese soldiers and people. It is also said, to be read in the Mandarin dialect to the inferior Officers of Government, and in the various provincial dialects to the people. It is however, the paraphrase that is read, the other parts being difficult for the people to understand. But as the style of the paraphrase could not be accommodated to the dialect of each province, I have heard, that in reading, the orator deviates considerably from the printed copy; supplying what he thinks needful to render the sense perspicuous to the hearers, and altering the phraseology to suit it to the idiom of the spoken language of that particular province, or district.

It is remarkable that the Chinese, Hebrews, Greeks, Romans and most of the ancient nations however distant from each other, should have all agreed in manifesting a sort of religious reverence at the beginning and middle of each lunar month. As if sensible of their obligations for "the precious things brought forth by the moon," they used to assemble at the time of new

* I beg leave to inform the reader, that I have not verified these calculations, but give a translation only.

and full moon, to discharge what they considered the duties of piety and gratitude. There is not however, in as far as my information goes, any devotional service performed by the Chinese, at those seasons.

The MANNER of reading the SHING-YU, at the stated times, is thus described by the translator of that work, in his preface:—"Early on the first and fifteenth of every moon, the civil and military officers, dressed in their uniform, meet in a clean, spacious, public Hall. The superintendent, who is called "Lee-sang," calls aloud, "stand forth in files." They do so, according to their rank,—He then says, "Kneel thrice, and bow the head nine times." They kneel, and bow to the ground, with their faces towards a platform, on which is placed a board with the Emperor's name. He next calls aloud, "rise and retire." They rise, and all go to a Hall, or kind of Chapel, where the law is usually read and where the military or people are assembled, standing round in silence. The Lee-sang then says, "Respectfully commence." The Sze-kiang-sang, or orator, advancing towards an incense altar, kneels; reverently takes up the board on which the maxim appointed for the day, is written, and ascends a stage with it. An old man receives the board, and sets it down on the stage, fronting the people. Then, commanding silence with a wooden rattle which he carries in his hand, he kneels, and reads it. When he has finished, the Lee-sang calls out; "Explain such a section, or maxim, of the sacred edict." The orator stands up, and gives the sense. In reading and expounding other parts of the law, the same forms are observed."

The writers of the Shing-yu, discover a considerable portion of what we vaguely call "Common sense," and penetration into the human character. In regard to political economy, the Shing-yu shows that considerable attention has always been paid to the subject in China. The attention of all its best Emperors, has ever been much turned to this radical maxim of government, viz. "That, to render a people happy, wars few, and the throne permanent, one of the most important means is, to endeavor to make the produce of the soil equal to the supply of the people; so that there be no absolute necessity to have recourse to other nations for the essential articles of food and clothing." How far they have, as a nation, been successful in attending to this fundamental maxim, their history will shew.

But, whatever good sense, these authors discover when treating of common topics, they fail exceedingly when religion becomes their theme. A spirit of atheistical indifference to every form of religion, and to duties of piety, runs through the whole of the Shing-yu, and is especially manifest in the seventh section. When a man has read the book through, he can scarcely carry with him, a single just idea of the Supreme Being, or of the final destiny of man. Indeed, he can scarcely fail to be impressed as if he had been reading instructions addressed to beings, who have no higher source than their parents; to beings who live in "a fatherless world;" to beings who are amenable to no authorities higher than that of the Emperor, and who have no higher end to answer on earth than to eat, to drink and to die!

I am not quite sure, Mr. Editor, whether the attempts of the paraphrast of the Shing-yu, in accommodating his style to the capacities and taste of the ignorant, may not even furnish matter of reproof to those Christian teachers, who, instead of aiming at the real good of their people, by teaching them in plain and easy language, seem as if the display of their own classical learning, their knowledge of nature, astronomy, law, and physic; and their acquaintance with antiquity,—were the highest ends of their ascending the pulpit.

The attention of the literary world has been excited by several works which have lately appeared on the subject of CHINESE GRAMMAR; and, in order to strike in with the train of public feeling, I intend, should health and other avocations permit, to send for a subsequent number of your Miscellany, an analysis (I am obliged often to use this word for want of a better at hand) of a book written by a learned Chinese on this subject. After having heard what French, Italian, and English authors have to say on the Chinese language, I hope it will not be unacceptable to your readers, to know what the Chinese themselves say about it; what rules they give for reading, writing, and good composition; and by what steps a man may arrive at eminence as a scholar. But lest I should excite expectations which cannot be realized, I beg to inform you, that Chinese philologists say extremely little on the THEORY of their language: they confine themselves mostly to remarks of a PRACTICAL kind, because they consider these best adapted for utility.

ART. IV. *An all-important proclamation, issued by Ladovic, the lord Bishop of Shánghái, for the information of all the friends of the religion [of the Lord of heaven].*

UNDER this title appeared, in our number for May last, page 246, a translation of the document we now subjoin in Chinese. We have been informed that the lord bishop was displeased with the appearance of the translation, and has pronounced some parts of it to be incorrect. We regretted very much that both the translation and its original could not be submitted to our readers in one and the same number; but they will now have them both; and if we have been guilty of any partiality, or the translator of any mistakes, we beg that the author of the document will believe that no disrespect or unfairness was designed by ourselves or our correspondent. If he will give us a new translation, or any comments or strictures on that in our May number, the same shall be duly published in our pages.

本處主教 羅。爲剴切曉示衆教友知悉。近來上海等處。有人廣發影射聖教書本。余甚哀痛。因書中雖有合聖教道理處。內蓄異端毒害人靈。關係非淺。當初 吾主耶穌。親定聖會。至公至正。獨一無二。傳於宗徒聖伯多六。接授其位。又親口囑咐伯多六說。予求爲爾永保爾之信德。故嗣後接位者。相傳無異。凡各處聖教會。俱遵教宗之命。爲此同教宗無不合而爲一。乃有不聽教宗之命者。卽爲異端。豈有離棄教宗之理。而不荒謬其說乎。爾等是余之羊。余宜善牧。恐爾等接看此書。稍有疑竇。大害己靈。故特曉示。另繕幾條。開列於後。

凡教友不能收看上海等處。所發異教書本。

凡教友如得此書。該速燒去。或呈於本堂神父。

凡教友曉得別人有異教書。該勸他們不能收看。並不能給於別人。亦要勸伊燒去。或呈本堂神父。

凡教友本應顯揚

天主之正教。又該常發愛人如己。倘遇外教人。接授異教等書。該勉設法。告訴明白。此書實是異教書本。不全合真

天主教道理。若人隨跟這個道理。一定錯悞。

又各處地方有邪淫的書本。害人靈魂。極大危險。前所說異教的書。亦與邪淫的書一樣。

凡教友萬不能收看存留。因邪淫書。多從魔鬼而來。倘收看或給於別人看。實爲魔鬼之子。此等人。一定下地獄。

ART. V. *Journal of Occurrences: search for murderers; pirates; cotton crop; weather at Shánghái; official proclamation; mortality in Hongkong; gov. Davis' visit to Cochinchina; appointments to office; chaplain at Canton; new periodical; French version of the affair at Fuhshan.*

THE series of documents relating to the riot in 1846 is completed in our present number. It is due to the editor from whose paper they were borrowed, to remark, that some of the documents which had been before published, as also the references to them in that paper, have been omitted in this republication.

Search for the murderers of Mr. Lowrie. Under the date of Oct. 2d, Shánghái, we have the following information regarding the measures which the Chinese authorities have set on foot, with a view to apprehend the murderers of the late Rev. W. M. Lowrie, recently thrown overboard by Chinese pirates, in the bay of Hángchau, off the city of Chápú. "On Thursday morning last, two days ago, I met Mr. Parkes, interpreter attached to the British consulate here. He had just returned from a three days' trip eastward to the coast, where he had been to observe the condition of a beacon, which he had some time before assisted the Chinese to erect off at sea between the mouth of the Yangtze' kiáng and Gutzlaff's island. During this trip, which carried him through the districts and cities of Nánhwái and Chuenshá, Mr. Parkes met three or four Chinese officers, part of a commission that had been appointed by the superior authorities to search for and seize the perpetrators of the late murder. Though their efforts had, up to that time, been unsuccessful, it seemed that they and their superiors were resolved that the murderers should be forth-coming. It was, they said, a matter of great importance, and the murderers must be seized, punished, &c. I doubt not but that, by some means they will effect their end, and ere long report the seizure of the criminals."

Pirates of Tsungming. A part of the naval expedition, recently fitted out by the authorities of Shánghái, to proceed against the pirates congregated off the mouth of the great river, on Tsungming, had returned to the city, having effected nothing. Those that returned consisted of about one thousand Fuhkien men, and a hundred from the province of Canton. The leader of the latter, is said to be from Macao or its vicinity.

The cotton crop, early in the month, was coming in rapidly, and was very abundant. Cotton is one of the staple articles among the farmers and merchants on the plains of Kiangnán. History says that this plant, the cotton, was introduced into these regions by a lady, on her return, by sea, from the provinces of Canton and Fuhkien. When she died, multitudes mourned on her account, and erected a temple and monuments to perpetuate her memory. She has since been deified, and is now honored as a goddess. Her name was *Hwáng*, or Yellow.

The weather, at Shánghái, had become cool, northerly winds having set in. During the month of September there were many rainy days, and at one time considerable solicitude felt for the safety of the cotton crop, fears being entertained lest it should be damaged by the heavy and frequent rains. The health of the foreign community was generally good, and the prospects of business for the season said to be fair.

Li, the criminal judge of this province, has recently issued a proclamation relating to the moral improvement of the people, of which the following is a translation.

Li, by imperial appointment, commissioner of justice for the province of Kwángtung, makes a proclamation to the people touching the study and recitation of the work called the Primary Lessons, in order to a proper management in the training and education of the young and ignorant. Whereas in the ancient province of Yuehtung, the people are vain and boisterous in their dispositions, and are accustomed to excessive profuseness and extravagance, the fathers and elder brothers among them ought properly to inculcate upon their inferiors all pure and wholesome regulations. But on the contrary, as far as is seen or heard of, their only contrivance is to look out for their own selfish gain. When the stream flows forth and forgets to return, wide-spreading indeed will be the overflow of waters. The disposition of the people is perverse and vile. In comparison with the practice of the intelligent and virtuous they are frivolous and debased; and those who are thus frivolous and debased, in matters pertaining to the instruction of the young and ignorant, will not be able to manage them as is fit and proper.

If it be desired to establish the education of the youthful and inexperienced part of the community upon a proper basis, the best method of accomplishing it, is to make use of the Primary Lessons of Cháfútsz' in one volume. When once its principles are instilled into the mind they become in a manner the master of the man and govern his whole character and conduct. Thus, it may be, they would have a tendency to reform the eager pursuit of gain and the unreasonable neglect of justice which so extensively prevail. This would constitute the just development of right principles, and lead to the pure sources of moral conduct.

The Primary Lessons are designed to furnish a proper basis of instruction. They must be studied in all their parts in order to a full explanation of the human relations, and it is fit that they should be thoroughly understood in order to personal cultivation and improvement. They are to be verified and approved in individual instances, in order to illustrate the power of example and increase the general good conduct. Sentence by sentence, and character by character, the whole work in order, at such time as it is proper for youth to learn them, is to be applied, as it were an antidote to disorder, to restore the sick and raise up those who have been laid prostrate by disease.

The scholars of the present time, barely availing themselves of the writings of the good, strive to ascend the cloudy ladder (of wisdom). But they are never able fully to realise their instructions in their own experience, nor do they seem sufficiently to comprehend in their own minds their meaning. Instead of this, they habitually alledge that the Primary Lessons are of no use in the practical operations of business. And thus their doctrine is to lay them away in the attic as being of no available utility. Yet we do not doubt, that beyond the consideration of the human relations, there is no true learning or philosophy. The Lun Yü, in the first chapter, treats of learning. The next chapter discourses of filial and paternal duties. The correctness of its principles is evident. Then, as it respects the Four Books and the Five Classics, how can they ever avail to promote the accomplishment of business? If we admit the advantage and necessity of these works, how much more then should the composition of writings designed as a trial of intellectual attainments, and the foundation of promotion, be regarded as a primary source and radical principle, which are to be diligently explored and sought out!

The root and foundation (of the work) are very deep. The branches and the foliage are naturally luxuriant. To an individual in retirement, it gives the reputation of being a liberal scholar, and when he engages in public affairs, it makes him the moderate and prudent officer. Formerly Luh Kiáshú in the midst of the assembly of his scholars frequently made use of this book to instruct the literati. Chin Wankung, a nobleman of Kweilin, laid open the barriers and instructed the minds of the people of the North. He caused this

work to be cut and printed, and had it circulated throughout the province. Liú Lunglán of Mingchau, a teacher of respectability and learning, in delivering his statements and explanations to his disciples in Ts'anhien, remarked with emphasis, "*you must read this book.*" These three noblemen were naturally disposed to study and to cultivate the qualifications of truly distinguished and worthy servants of the emperor. From first to last they exhibited a striking resemblance to each other.

All the ancient wise men investigated and discoursed. Still they did not consider a mere vain longing, and an idle wish to ascend the steps of elevation to the character of sages, or a vain aspiration to enter upon the beaten path of virtue, as constituting the rule and model for mankind to follow. Those who neglect the practice and faithful fulfillment of what the sages teach, these are the men who are not to be approved.

With the leading doctrines and discourses of the learned, who have reasoned and discussed with the utmost particularity of investigation, as it respects myself, the officer, aforementioned, and the author of this proclamation, I cannot pretend to any peculiar acquaintance or intimacy. However, after the manner of the individuals already named, when formerly I held office in the district of Cháuchau, availing myself of the explanations of the original volume by Cháng Tsingloh, a nobleman of Ifung, I ordered the whole work to be engraved, printed and published. I also instituted a public gymnasium. Having had the superintendence of the institution for the space of three months, during which time I sought to convey instructions of the most practical character, I found in the spirit and dispositions of the men a manifest and decided change. Such are the obvious results of a faithful experiment and operation of this work. The object and purport of this proclamation, is to communicate information to the elders and gentry of the city and country, that they may be thoroughly assured, that it behooves them every one to examine critically this subject, and distinguish clearly each one for himself, and that all may unite in disseminating among the community generally a knowledge of these doctrines, tracing them out in all their length and breadth, acknowledging their truth, admonishing others and leading the way in their practical application and fulfillment. And let them endeavor to stir up the younger persons in the various families with which they are respectively connected, to emulate and encourage one another. It will depend upon their diligent practice and repetition of these lessons, and pursuing them in order through the entire series, that they may be able to give them a connected and systematic explanation. It will depend upon a connected and systematic explanation, and their faithful inculcation, to secure their strenuous and diligent fulfillment in practice. If it be acknowledged that education ought to be sedulously supported, then the masters of the art ought to be rigid and exact in the performance of their duty. If it be considered that the human relations ought to be accurately understood and appreciated, then a polite and courteous behavior requires especially to be cultivated. If we believe it to be our duty to attend carefully to our own personal interests and reputation, then we ought to discriminate between rectitude and profit. If we allow that the history of the ancients is deserving of investigation and study, then we ought to feel ourselves moved with generous impulses, and excited to virtuous conduct by the contemplation of the records of past ages. If we admit that to increase the aggregate of sober and reasonable behavior, is a duty which ought to be maintained, then the wicked and lawless ought at once to be corrected and reformed. The evil and perverse ought of themselves to vanish and disappear, and the disposition originally good should be gradually restored to its former excellence. That men of letters should be liberally and truly educated, and that none should be like wandering barbarians of the wilderness, this is what is desired and expected from the scholars and people of this realm. This is the proclamation.

From an extract in the China Mail we borrow the following table, showing the number of deaths occurring among the troops in Hongkong during the five summers preceding the year 1847.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>From April 1st to October.</i>	<i>Proportion of deaths to strength.</i>
1842,	129	19 per cent.
1843,	227	22 "
1844,	129	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
1845,	77	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1846,	19	2 $\frac{1}{5}$ "

It thus appears that since the year 1843 there has been a constant and rapid decrease in the mortality of the place. The new barracks which are said to be "not only unrivalled, but unequalled in the British dominions," by their construction and location so favorable to the health and comfort of the occupants, illustrate the economy as well as humanity of the government by which they have been provided.

The governor of Hongkong we are informed has returned from his visit to Cochinchina. Of the object or success of the visit no particular account has yet been received. Major-general D'Aguiar it is understood is to be relieved by general Stuart, as commander of the forces in China. W. T. Mercer Esq. has been appointed Treasurer, and C. B. Hillier Esq. Chief Magistrate of the colony of Hongkong.

It is with much pleasure that we notice the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Banks, as chaplain to the English community in Canton. He has our best wishes for his usefulness and success, in his new field of labor. The increased number of foreign residents has long made the services of such a chaplain exceedingly desirable. Preparations we understand are being made for the erection of a church, and house for the residence of the pastor. The religious services are held for the present at the office of the British consulate.

We have been favored with several numbers of a periodical publication lately commenced at Singapore. It is entitled, "The Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia." A more extended notice of the work is deferred to our next number.

The following account of the affair at Fuhshán is said to have appeared in a French paper, under the title of "Les Suites d'une Chasse in Chine."

Dans les premiers jours de mars, époque de l'année où la rivière de Canton et les rivages abondent en sarcelles, en canards sauvages, et autres gibiers aquatiques, une société de chasseurs européens s'avança en bateau jusque devant Fou-Cham, immense ville manufacturière à trois lieues de Canton. Le désir de voir cette ville, stimulé par la contenance paisible des habitants, porta les chasseurs à débarquer et à parcourir les rues. Bientôt la foule se pressa autour d'eux et prit un tel caractère que nos voyageurs crurent devoir chercher refuge à la mairie. Il ne s'y trouvait malheureusement que le mandarin inférieur. Celui-ci fit tout ce qu'il put pour apaiser la foule et la faire retirer tranquillement; mais l'exaspération était déjà trop grande. Il prit alors la résolution de conduire lui-même les Européens au bateau. Des que ceux-ci reparurent à la porte de la mairie, un hurrah furibond se fit entendre, accompagné d'une grêle de pierres. "Suivez-moi toujours," leur cria le mandarin, "ma poitrine vous servira de bouclier!" En effet, plus d'un caillou atteignit ce fonctionnaire pendant ce trajet, qui fut long et difficile. Le danger qu'ils venaient de courir ne fut rien au prix de celui qui les attendait la rivière. Des éclats de rochers se mirent à pleuvoir de tous côtés sur les imprudents chasseurs, qui auraient infailliblement péri, si une espèce de tente en nattes et en bambous, destinée à les garantir du soleil, n'avait pour un moment amorti la plupart des projectiles. Cette rude poursuite dura environ une heure et demie, et ne cessa que lorsque l'étendue de la rivière permit au bateau de se tenir hors de portée.



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